



## Coach James R. Fredenberger

August 29, 1932 - November 23, 2019

James (Jim) Richard Fredenberger passed away peacefully in his sleep on Saturday, November 23, 2019. Jim was born August 29, 1932, in Marshall, Illinois, a small town just west of the Indiana border in central Illinois to his parents Glenn and Helen Jane. His sister Ann Lee, 4 years his junior, died at the age of 10. Jimmy Dick as he was called as a youngster spent much time at his devoted grandmother Nina Smith's home. She adored Jimmy Dick and allowed him to do anything he wanted, which included playing with rocks in her bed – while she was in it – smashing them against each other. He was also influenced by his uncles, Bill and John Fredenberger, who played basketball and football. Jim graduated from Marshall High School in 1950 where he participated in clubs, pole vaulted on the track team, and played basketball and football. To say he loved sports, especially football, would be an understatement. Jim went on to Eastern Illinois University where he continued to play football. Coming from a long line of teachers, he majored in Social Studies with the hopes of teaching but more so coaching at the high school level. After serving in the Army in Germany, he returned to Illinois and taught and coached basketball and football in several small towns, including Casey, Ridge Farm and Bement. While at Casey, he met Kathryn Mankin who declared when she met him, she knew she would marry him. They were married on June 7, 1959. They welcomed their daughters Jane Ann into the world in 1961 and Julia Kay in 1963. Jane Ann was born with special needs and the family moved up to the Chicago area for better services. Jim became a teacher and assistant football coach at Tinley Park High School in 1966 and ultimately head coach in 1968. His Titan teams during the 70s were among the best in the state – at one point having a 24 game winning streak. Jim was inducted into the Illinois High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1990 with an overall record of 96-39-1. After retiring from teaching and coaching, he was able to spend more time fishing, a passion he enjoyed throughout his life.

Jim leaves behind his loving wife, Kathryn, his daughter Jane Ann, his daughter Julia Goodwin, son-in-law Tony Goodwin, and grandchildren Maxwell and Hattie Goodwin. Visitation will be at Vandenberg Funeral Home in Tinley Park on December 7, from noon to 2 pm, with a Celebration of Life ceremony at 2:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to Park Lawn Association online at [parklawn.com](http://parklawn.com) or mailed to Park Lawn

Association - Attn: Development Dept. - 10833 S. LaPorte - Oak Lawn, IL. 60453.

Envelopes will also be available at the funeral home.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Memorial Visitation

DEC 7. 12:00 PM (CT)

Vandenberg Funeral Home Tinley Park  
17248 S. Harlem Avenue  
Tinley Park, IL 60477  
info@vandenbergfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.vandenbergfuneralhome.com>

### Celebration of Life

DEC 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

Vandenberg Funeral Home Tinley Park  
17248 S. Harlem Avenue  
Tinley Park, IL 60477  
info@vandenbergfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.vandenbergfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Coach James R. Fredenberger*

September 06 at 12:23 AM



“ *Wow I'm saddened beyond belief. My sincere condolences to the family.. Coach fredenberger is the reason for my success..teaching discipline allowing me to help coach...starting the fire!  
He was a great coach..truly a rare coach  
He instilled the love for football that sustained my career from the university of Oklahoma..Kansas city chiefs...Buffalo bills and New England Patriots..  
I owe my life in football to him!  
Rest In Peace Coach....and thanks!*

chuck lester - April 05, 2021 at 06:59 PM



“ *Coach Fredenberger was my coach in Casey, IL in the early 60's. He also ran the swimming pool in the summers and hired me as a lifeguard. He and I got along very well. I was one of his favorite players. In Gym class he would always pick me for his team. He had great energy and love of teaching and coaching. Such fond memories. - Dan Endsley*

Dan Endsley - October 29, 2020 at 02:26 AM



“ *Kathy- I just saw this. My sincere best wishes to you. I have many fond memories of being Asst coach with Jim my first year teaching in Ridge Farm. He was a good friend and mentor. I wish you many years of happiness with family.  
Best Wishes, Marvin Klein*

marvin klein - May 14, 2020 at 03:29 PM



“ *Prayers for the family! He impacted our world and made it a better place:) Thank you for your dedication to TPHS! You will always be remembered!*



Sherrie Styx - December 09, 2019 at 08:22 AM

KM

“ *Class of 87*

*Forever in our hearts.*

*Even if you did remember Brian Wise (the one who led the football team to the Championship) more than me (long haired stoner that sat in the back of your biology class).*

*Thank you sir, for inviting me to sit with you at Olympic Star. Great company, great conversation, great man.*

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**Kenny McCann** - December 08, 2019 at 07:36 PM

GF

“ *I will always remember coach. He was my first driving teacher during the spring of 68. He had a special way of putting the fear of the Almighty in me and at the same time teaching lifelong lessons as well. His courage to sit in a confined space and have the patience to teach 3 squirrely students how to be responsible adults in a vehicle weighing at that time over 3 thousand pounds was a commitment I have respected my entire life. He was a good man. And I will miss him. Gary Fortin*

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**Gary Fortin** - December 08, 2019 at 02:39 PM

ER

“ *Edwin & Sallie Rusthoven lit a candle in memory of Coach James R. Fredenberger*



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**Edwin & Sallie Rusthoven** - December 08, 2019 at 02:25 PM

SP

“ *Mr Fredenberger was one of my all time favorite teachers. I remember years after I was out of HS, I was going through the drive through at the McDonald's in Tinley, and I saw him, but wasn't sure if he saw me, or even if he'd remember who I was, before I knew it, there was a knock at my passenger window, and he said "Mr Phillips how are you?" He had a remarkable memory! You'll be missed! <3*

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**Samuel J Phillips** - December 08, 2019 at 09:19 AM

MD

“ If you knew Jim, you respected him. Had the opportunity of teaching with Jim and it was apparent that he loved what he did. Many a young man benefited from being coached by him. He will be missed.

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**Marcia Duncan** - December 08, 2019 at 09:03 AM

JG

“ I had a chance to talk to Jim by phone this past summer (thanks Craig Holup) and it was great ! Just as sharp and intense as I remembered him from years past ! This is just a little text I ran across some years ago and thought about it when I heard of Jim’s passing. It defiantly is what Jim met to me...

*“This I Believe:*

*A hundred years from now  
It will not matter what my  
Bank account was. The sort  
Of house that I lived in  
Or the kind of car I drove.  
But the world may be  
Different, because I was  
Important in the lives of so many students ...*

*Sure he’s up there watching football right now !*

*John Garramone*

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**John Garramone** - December 05, 2019 at 08:52 PM

SS

*Who else but Fredenberger could convince 22 high school guys that they could play an entire varsity football schedule AND full JV schedule and live through it. JV game v Joliet West nearly killed me. Sarovich*

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**Steve Sarovich** - December 06, 2019 at 07:53 AM

ER

*Hi John and Steve.*

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**Edwin & Sallie Rusthoven** - December 08, 2019 at 03:17 PM

MM

*What a great man. - Mike Meloy*

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**Mike Meloy** - December 09, 2019 at 12:53 AM

TF

“ When a coach can take a young boy and turn him into a young man it is a true sign of a gifted leader. Yes he was tough on us, but he wanted us to succeed in all areas of our lives. He brought a football team together and shaped them into a group that played for each other, trusted in each other and till this day kept them together as friends for life. Job well done coach. Thank you 🏈🏈  
Tim Framke class of “75”

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**Tim Framke** - December 05, 2019 at 07:53 PM

SS

“ During our freshman year of basketball Coach Fredenberger, the varsity football coach, was also the freshman basketball coach. He either did not know that we were freshman, did not care that we were freshman, or did not realize basketball was not football, or maybe all three. We did not win many games, but we out-rebounded most.  
Fast forward...as a senior, then playing for Gordon Rogers, I was a decent defensive player and tied for the conference rebounding record. Go figure.  
Steve Sarovich

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**Steve Sarovich** - December 05, 2019 at 05:23 PM

LM

“ I had the privilege of starting a 34-year teaching and coaching career at TPHS in close contact with Jim before he retired. He was incredibly influential during some very impressionable and formative years. Jim's knowledge and preparation as both teacher and coach were inspirational to all. I will never forget watching 8mm reel-to-reel game film on Sunday mornings at school before prepping for next week's opponent. Among the many lessons I learned was how to draw up a proper scouting report - a skill continuing to serve me to this very day. Blessings to his surviving family and friends. An unforgettable man.

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**Larry Maday** - December 05, 2019 at 04:51 PM

DB

“ Great coach, man and soul. Tough as nails. Thanks for the memories and inspiration.

Danny Brown '86

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**Daniel Brown** - December 03, 2019 at 02:41 PM

YH

“ Your friends at HCL purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Coach James R. Fredenberger.



Your friends at HCL - December 02, 2019 at 02:51 PM

JF

“ JD Fredenberger lit a candle in memory of Coach James R. Fredenberger



JD Fredenberger - November 28, 2019 at 05:26 PM

V(

*I am praying for love and peace “ such as times as these.”  
Cherishing special memories with the family.*

*Ginny Tolefree-Bowdry  
Tinley Park High School  
1973 - 2006*

Virginia (Ginny)Tolefree-Bowdry - December 04, 2019 at 11:40 AM

JF

“ I take this time to express my sincere heartfelt sympathies for the loss of my cousin Jim. Jim was a man who inspired me by his genuine sense of adventure, positive outlook on life, and love of family. A true leader indeed. We will sadly miss Jim and our prayers are with Kathryn, Julie, Jane Anne, the rest of his family. I'm sure the many individuals that Jim met and had influence on during his career will miss him equally as well.

*I remember how Jim never missed an opportunity to grab his fishing pole and see if there were any fish to be caught anywhere at any time of year. I have fond memories of listening to him and my father discuss the many topics they had in common at the numerous family reunions we would have at his parents' house in Marshall. Things like coaching football, teaching drivers training, and comparing the general happenings at each other's high schools where they were employed. Additionally, Jim would always ask how my junior high and high school athletic pursuits were going and what my football team's record was. Jim had an amazing outlook on life and was always ready to share a smile accompanied with a story that would emphasize his outlook and philosophy on life. It was never dull or lacking in entertainment when Jim was around.*

*I recall the first time that my wife Elle met Jim and his wife Kathryn while at a college awards banquet in which my father was one of the honorees. She was thoroughly charmed by Jim's warmth, uplifting personality, and ability to tell interesting stories about me that she had never heard before. They chatted for hours at the banquet and afterwards at a family get together when the event had ended.*

*We will miss him greatly and the amazing attitude he had on life.*

*JD and Elle Fredenberger*

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**JD Fredenberger** - November 28, 2019 at 05:18 PM

RF

“ Coach Fredenberger was a great man that inspired every athlete or student he encountered. He taught me the meaning of hard work, discipline, teamwork and the will to be the best I can be. We all will miss him.

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**richard fox** - November 27, 2019 at 09:50 AM

LG

“ Mr Fredenberger was rarely without a smile on his face as he put up with the shenanigans of Julie and her silly posse. I miss him already.

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**Liisa Gary** - November 26, 2019 at 02:44 PM

GV

“ One of the greatest Men to have ever known and the greatest Man I have ever been lead by!  
On the field and more importantly off the field.  
Dedication, hard work, practice, team, perfection, practice repetition, “hells bells” ,  
“Run it again” !!!!!  
Thanks Coach for everything you taught me and saving me from myself!



gary vanderberg - November 26, 2019 at 11:51 AM

CS

Yes the Hells Bells was his signature line.

Chuck Schmidt - November 26, 2019 at 05:15 PM

TZ

I knew Coach Fredenberger 52, 53 years ago when we won the First Football Championship in the 1967 season, and hung the First Banner from the rafters. I always got the feeling that...if Coach Calhoun got too crazy on our ass...Coach Fredenberger would be there to save us. More than that you can hardly say about a man!

thomas zubaty - November 27, 2019 at 04:01 AM

LM

Other classic quotes: "When you're early, you're never late." (This from a man I knew to set 2 morning alarm clocks) or "You've got to be too tough to be sick. You kids are in the prime of your lives - how could a germ live in your body?"

Larry Maday - December 05, 2019 at 09:55 PM

CL

You forgot...Judas priest

chuck lester - April 05, 2021 at 07:02 PM

CZ

“ Jim and his wife Kay were our best friends! we met thru Park Lawn where our daughters attended! I always admired his sense of humor, and his devotion to his wife Kay and his family! A great Coach and driver Ed teacher! One of my daughters had him for that. He will be deeply missed! Carol Zimmy

Carol R. Zimmy - November 26, 2019 at 06:49 AM

MK

“ Great coach , great man .... Chewed me one good my Junior year at half time of a JV game in hoops . Ripped me to respect the game , give 100% and never let your teammates dkwn. Play up to your abilities . He was never my position coach as I was a receiver /safety but we all respected him for his game knowledge and legendary motivation skills . I had him for Science was an excellent teacher as well and loved his fishing . Coach will be sorely missed . Mike Killeen TP 1985

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**Mike killeen** - November 24, 2019 at 02:22 PM

ER

“ Coach taught me to drive at TPHS , 40 some years ago. He was always patient, kind and fun. I am so sorry to hear of his passing.

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**Elaine Rodgers** - November 23, 2019 at 12:26 PM

TW

“ It isn't often that someone outside your family can influence your life as well as Coach Freddie has done for myself as well as countless others, it was a tremendous privilege to have known and be coached and taught by this man.

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**Terry Wrzesinski** - November 23, 2019 at 11:27 AM