



## Robert J. "Coach" Buck

August 19, 1937 - May 20, 2024

Dodgeville – Robert J. “Coach” Buck, longtime Dodgeville High School coach, passed away on Monday, May 20, 2024, surrounded by his family.

He was born on August 19, 1937 in Belle Fourche, South Dakota, to Dr. Robert M. and Mrs. F. Lucille Buck. After graduating from Belle Fourche High School, he received his B.S. in Education from Black Hills State University located in Spearfish, South Dakota. He then went on to take graduate classes at the UW-Madison, Azusa Pacific - California, Southern Illinois University, and UW-La Crosse. He taught for two years in Mobridge, South Dakota before moving to Dodgeville in 1963. While at Dodgeville, where he taught and coached for 36 years, he was the head football coach for 12 years. His 1986 team went 9-0 and lost, in the playoffs in overtime, to the eventual state champion, Westby. He was head basketball coach for 18 years, winning 5 league championships and his team ended up 3rd place in the 14 team SWAL conference league. One year he coached wrestling and two of his wrestlers made it to state. He was named Coach of the Year nine times and was honored on January 18, 1978 when they named a day after him. He was the only Southern 8 conference head coach in history to win championships in both football and basketball.

In 1995, Buck was named to the Wisconsin High School Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. Followed by Black Hills State University Hall of Fame as a

coach in 1998, and the Wisconsin Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1999 as an assistant coach. In 2010 he was a charter member of the Dodgeville High School Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2011, he received the WBCA Eli Crogan Humanitarian Award. He took great pride in having the opportunity to coach against 35 different coaches that are now in the Hall of Fame. He was a member of the Wisconsin High School Basketball Hall of Fame Committee since 1996 and a member of the WIAA Basketball Rules Committee from 1978-1986 as well as many other coaching committees and associations. "Coach" was Young Jaycee of the Year in 1972, three times nominated to Who's Who among US teachers, and received a Teachers Award from Congressman Scott Klug in 1996. Coach authored a book in 1970 titled, The Shuffle and Press Offense for High School Basketball and wrote articles for many athletic magazines.

After retiring from teaching in 1996, he became the public address announcer for Dodgeville basketball games. His trademark "sophomore" pronunciation was repeated at every game. Later he became very active in Relay for Life, MACC Fund, Parkinson's Disease Support Group, and the Iowa County Cancer Coalition. He was on the board of directors for DASFI (Dodgeville Area Scholarship Fund Inc.), the Wis. Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame Banquet, and a committee member for selecting Mr. Basketball of Wisconsin.

He loved sports trivia, especially 1950's baseball. He also loved following his grandchildren in all of their activities such as sports, dance, band, and art. He followed the Brewers, Badgers, Bucks and Packers religiously and could give a play-by-play recount of not only their games, but his grandchildren's as well. His later years were spent managing numerous fantasy football and baseball leagues, where he was competitive until his last days.

Bob was married to the former Sandra Gossard in 1958 and together they had

six children. He married Nancy (Eichorst) Hinderman in 1986 and gained two step-children. He is survived by his loving wife Nancy and his children; Robert C. Buck, Rebecca Buck, Kristen (Mike) Flanigan, Marylee (Dan) Oleson, and Melissa (Curt) Hames, and his step-children; Mark (Karla) Hinderman and Karen (Steve) Schultz. His sisters Rosemary Geis, SuzAnne (Bill) Howe, and LeeAnne (Gene) Schmidt. He is further survived by his grandchildren; Cassie, Jillaine, Tyler, Michael, Elizabeth, Megan, Sierra, Kathryn, Molly, Bailey, Sydney, Griffin, Silas, Lilliah and Jamie as well as 8 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his son Richard S. Buck, his brother-in-law Ken Geis, and his parents-in-law Bob "Otto" and Loene Eichorst.

A Celebration of Life is being planned for Saturday, June 1, 2024, at the DODGEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL UPPER GYM from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. with a memorial service starting at 2:00 p.m.

A private burial is planned.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Dodger Food Locker, the Dodgeville Area Scholarship Foundation Inc (DASFI), or a charity of your choice.

The family would like to thank Upland Hills NRC, Doctors Grunow and Shannon, and all his doctors and medical staff, everyone who visited, called, wrote, or was in any way impacted by Coach in their life. He always had time for a chat and a story. He will be profoundly missed, and we were all better for having known him.

IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A DODGER! -Coach Buck

# Cemetery Details

## East Side Cemetery

601 E. Division Street  
Dodgeville, WI

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUN 1. 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Dodgeville High School - Upper Gym  
912 W. Chapel Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533

## Memorial Service

JUN 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

Dodgeville High School - Upper Gym  
912 W. Chapel Street  
Dodgeville, WI 53533

# Tribute Wall

RB

“ Robert C. Buck sent a virtual gift in memory of Robert J. "Coach" Buck



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Robert C. Buck - July 02, 2024 at 02:52 PM

RB

“ Robert C. Buck lit a candle in memory of Robert J. "Coach" Buck



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Robert C. Buck - July 02, 2024 at 02:51 PM

JV

“ Our deepest sympathy to the family of Bob. May you all find peace in the many memories that you have of him.  
Hugs to all, Josh, Jamie, Courtney, Delaney & Conner Vaughn

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Jamie Vaughn - June 01, 2024 at 11:54 AM

CS

“ We knew Bob only in these last few years, and we're so glad we did. What a smile !! Always with a joke or a kind word. Nancy and family we are so sorry for your loss.

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cc sheldon rand schott - June 01, 2024 at 11:33 AM

AL

“ When I think of someone of who made a positive impact on people’s lives, I picture coach buck. His kindness, thoughtfulness and positive attitude made it a better day when you saw coach buck that day.

*My condolences to the family.*

*Al Laufenberg*

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**Al Laufenberg** - May 26, 2024 at 09:02 AM

TC

“ *Deepest Sympathy to Coach Buck’s family! Enjoyed visits with him when I would run into him on the streets of Dodgeville years ago. Also competing against some of his strong Dodger teams back in the mid- late 70’s. RIP Coach Buck, Kind Regards, Tim Coyle, Spring Green*

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**Tim Coyle** - May 25, 2024 at 11:50 PM

KK

“ *Nancy and family, you have my heart felt sympathy and prayers! Coach was such an important part of my high school years- being a statistician for his basketball teams taught me so much and gave me such a love for the sport. He touched so many lives and will never be forgotten!*

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**Kathy Kellen** - May 25, 2024 at 10:43 PM

KH

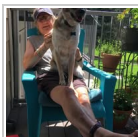
“ I’m so sorry about coach. A great man. I remember one time my now my sister in law and I were downtown and we had large pink rollers in our hair. He came out of a store and said “girls you can’t be downtown with those rollers in your hair. “We laughed and thought should we go home. I really enjoyed playing Bingo in the home with him also he was very competitive in that also.one of the greatest men I ever knew. Praying for all of you ❤️🙏

kris borne halverson - May 25, 2024 at 08:42 PM

LR

“ To the family of Coach Buck, I am very sorry for you loss. Although I didn't know Coach personally if I close my eyes I can hear him delivering the prayer at the WBCA Hall of Fame Banquet (which he did for many years). I always enjoyed the prayer, the message it conveyed, and of course the convictive manner with which he delivered it. One of a kind. RIP Coach.

Lee Rabas - May 24, 2024 at 09:50 PM



“ Nancy and family. I am so sorry for your loss. I not only loved playing for him, but also the kind and beautiful man he was. He has left an indelible mark on the community of Dodgeville. He will be missed.

Jon Jacka - May 23, 2024 at 06:21 PM

TR

“ Condolences to the Buck family. Imagine the amount of people this man affected over his lifetime. RIP Coach

Tom Ryan - May 23, 2024 at 09:30 AM

VP

“ One time coach seen me on my bike and with my brother on the handle bars, When ever he seen me he would bring up that day.

vicki portwine - May 23, 2024 at 06:56 AM

BF

“ We are so sorry for your loss! " Coach" was well loved by many! He will be missed!

*Much love and Prayers!  
Barb Fawcett & Family*

Barb Fawcett - May 22, 2024 at 10:08 PM

BM

“ Condolences to the family of Bob Buck - my good and true friend for over 60 years!

Bill Mountjoy - May 22, 2024 at 07:34 PM

CW

*Probably the most inspirational and charismatic man I've ever been around. It was a blessing to have known and been coached by such a man. Rest in peace "COACH." You were the best you could be...  
C.Wynn*

Christopher Wynn - May 22, 2024 at 08:18 PM

PO

*I am heartbroken. I am so happy that I got to know him on a whole new level the last year or so. So many stories! He remembered everything! And was so competitive to the very end! Rest in peace Coach.*

Patricia Ottoway - May 22, 2024 at 09:27 PM

WP

*It was an honor to know him he was a wonderful contribution to Athletics I feel privileged that he was part of is part of WBCA*

win parkinson - May 24, 2024 at 10:42 PM

KC

*Condolences to the family! Karen Clough and family*

**Karen Clough** - May 26, 2024 at 07:16 PM

DW

*Bob taught us how to live. He was an inspirational teacher. He will be missed.*

*Dave Westhoff.*

**Dave Westhoff** - June 10, 2024 at 03:12 PM

PF

*Coach Won 5 Southern Eight Conference Championships and 2 Regional WIAA Championships in Basketball, and that is it.*

*His overall coaching record in Basketball was 222 Wins and 146 (L) for a 59% winning percentage. NO Sectional Finals nor No State WIAA State Tournament Appearances either.*

*Coach Buck's career record in is over 36 years as a Phy Ed teacher and coach was average at best. Great coach. No. I personally played in 29 Games that our team won (13% of Career Wins) for Coach when I played for him, I also was on a Conference and Regional Championship team for Coach Buck. When Coach Buck won his 100 conference game, he contacts WMTV for coverage in 1977. Bob Buck was all about Bob Buck and no one else. He was handed over a remarkable basketball program in 1968, yet, under his leadership in the next 16 years he coached, the program declined greatly. Bob Buck won four of his five conference championships his first five years of coaching and only one after that for the rest of his career.*

*It is time to review Bob Buck for his real contributions to Dodgeville, and not a image that does not hold true for many whom knew him. Many people who feel the same way I do feel sick when someone talks about Bob Buck and his greatness. Sorry folks, it is time to move on and stop drinking the Bob Buck Cool Aide.*

*Patrick Franzen  
1978 Dodgeville Grad  
4-Time Universities of Wisconsin Letterman in Basketball*

**Patrick Franzen** - August 03, 2025 at 04:12 AM

PF

*Coach Buck is so special, he deserves two submissions from a former player.*

*I knew Bob since 1968. I knew Richie and Robby well, including Sandy.*

*Bob and Sandy had six children together, however, three of the daughters do not want anything to do with their father as they moved in with their mom once Sandy left Bob and filed for divorce shortly after two DHS teachers were found dead in their homes and Bob Buck was questioned by DPD relative to his knowledge of the two people found dead. Bob Buck was a person of interest. The teachers were Mr. and Mrs. Tom Nelson*

*Bob might have been an average coach, but is was a remarkably poor father and spearheaded a broken family.*

*You are not a real man unless you have a sound family life. Sorry coach, you were below average in your career based on the talent you had to work with and very bad as a head of a family.*

*Lastly, how in the world did you ever get into all these HOF with your career record. Simply Remarkable. I guess some people will believe anything they hear.*

*Patrick Franzen*

*1978 Dodgeville Grad*

*1977 McDonalds Preseason Nomination for first ever High School All American Basketball Team*

*All Conference in HS and at the University level no thanks to Buck Buck.*

*PS: Bob Buck informed me that I would not be successful in college and I should work at Dick's as a store clerk vs. going to college and he also said my chances of playing at a four year school were zero!!*

*Good old Coach Buck. yes, he was one of a kind and I hope we don't see his likes again.*

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**Patrick Franzen** - August 03, 2025 at 04:59 AM