



## Bart Herman Bartels

June 19, 1951 - September 25, 2024

Bart Bartels, age 73, of Adrian, Michigan, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, surrounded by his loving family and under the compassionate care of Hospice of Lenawee.

Born on June 19, 1951, in Muskegon Heights, Michigan, to Rudy and Lucy Bartels, Bart lived a life rooted in faith, family, and service. After earning his Bachelor's Degree in Education from the University of Michigan, Bart began his teaching career in Manchester, teaching 6th grade. It was there, while teaching and coaching, that he met the love of his life, Trudi (Allshouse), who was student-teaching at the same school. This marked the beginning of their lifelong partnership, and they married on June 18, 1976. Bart later taught in Britton-Macon and Adrian, where he transitioned from classroom educator to Reading Specialist after earning his Master's Degree from Eastern Michigan University.

Known to many as, "Coach Bartels," Bart Bartels began his coaching career at Manchester, leading both Varsity football and basketball teams, but his legacy was built in Lenawee County, coaching Varsity basketball at Britton, Clinton, and Adrian. Over his remarkable career, Bartels amassed nearly 700 wins, secured multiple Tri-County Conference championships, and became one of the winningest coaches in boys and girls basketball in league history.

Bart Bartels began his coaching career with the Manchester boys basketball team, leading them from 1974-75 through 1984-85. In 1985, he became head coach of the Britton girls basketball team, where he quickly built a powerhouse program. Under his leadership, the Britton Tories won league titles in 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, and 2001, along with district championships in 1986, 1989, 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997.

A special highlight during his career was coaching all 5 of his children. His oldest daughter, Mellissa Wilson (Bartels), played for him from 1996 to 1999 before going on to play basketball at Concordia University, Ann Arbor. His son, Brian Bartels, played for him from 2002 to 2005, as well as his daughter-in-law, Kasey Bartels (Albaugh), who is married to Brian. This was followed by his youngest daughter, Kristi Cummings (Bartels), who played from 2005 to 2007. During his time coaching the Adrian boys varsity team, Bart also had the opportunity to coach his second-youngest son, Brett Bartels.

His influence extended beyond high school basketball, as Bart found time to assistant-coach at St. Stephens Lutheran School from 2014-15, allowing him to coach his youngest of five children, Jordan Bartels. The 4 oldest siblings all had the privilege of running point, executing their dad's carefully crafted plays and his renowned "Blue Press" on the court, then discussing and reflecting on the game together at the kitchen table later that night.

Bartels also led the Britton boys varsity team from 1987 to 2004-05, earning a District Championship in 1991-92 with a 17-6 record and league titles in 1998, 1999, and 2000.

During the "off-season," Bart enjoyed time at Devil's Lake, taking pontoon rides, enjoying a good book under the awning, or enjoying a brewski and a boat ride with his brother-in-law, Tim Allshouse. He and Trudi cherished their trips to Florida, simply watching the waves and taking a break from all of the

“X’s and “O’s” of coaching and teaching.

For the past 7 years, Bart coached at Tecumseh alongside one of his former Britton-Macon standout players, Kristy Zajac (Maska). Together, they achieved a 109-43 record, capturing 2 district titles, an SEC League Championship, and a Regional Championship—the first in 49 years. Bart was a pivotal figure in Tecumseh’s success, known for his dedication, commitment, and the daily jokes that brighten everyone’s day.

Bart Bartels’ influence reached far beyond basketball. He lived by his mantra, “God. Family. Basketball,” always stressing that God came first. His faith and values were central to how he coached, creating a positive environment that shaped his players both on and off the court, with many of his athletes becoming coaches and educators, carrying forward the lessons he instilled.

As former player Mindy Jordan (Bush) shared, “I’ll never forget the life lessons and basketball knowledge I gained from him. His impact goes further than he or anyone will ever know.” Kristy Zajac (Maska) added, “His passion for the game was infectious, and every team he coached felt his impact. Bart’s leadership and heart made us all better, both on and off the field.”

Bart is survived by his beloved wife, Trudi Bartels (Allshouse), and their five children: Mellissa Wilson and her husband Ben Wilson, Brian Bartels and his wife Kasey Bartels, Kristi Cummings (Bartels) and her husband Clint Cummings, Dr. Brett Bartels and his wife Rebecca Bartels, and his youngest son, Jordan Bartels. His loving family also includes the twinkle in his eyes, his cherished grandchildren: Beckett (12) and Sloane Wilson (3), Everett Bartels (9), Harper Bartels (9), Tinley Cummings (9), and Elle Cummings (6). Bart's legacy of love, faith, and leadership will continue to shine through his family and all those whose lives he touched. He is survived by sisters, Claire Dodge,

Joella Lamont, Peggy (Mike) Kapuscinski; sister-in-Law Terri Bartels; brother-in-law Tim (Susan) Allshouse and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Rudy Bartels, brothers-in-law, Lance Dodge and Tom Lamont.

Visitation for Bart will be held on Monday, September 30, 2024, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian. Funeral services will take place on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. at St. Stephens Lutheran Church with Pastor Brian Keller officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Lenawee or the Tecumseh Girls Basketball Program. [https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/prdembd?ref=ZZIJECP1500Q2EZ\\_ZZ64FF44D42SGAF](https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/prdembd?ref=ZZIJECP1500Q2EZ_ZZ64FF44D42SGAF)

Online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com](http://www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com).

Please visit Bart's tribute wall to use the QR code when making a donation to the Tecumseh Girls Basketball Program.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 30. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)  
1501 W. Maumee St.  
Adrian, MI 49221  
(517) 263-1400  
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

## Visitation

SEP 30. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)  
1501 W. Maumee St.  
Adrian, MI 49221  
(517) 263-1400  
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

## Funeral Service

OCT 1. 5:00 PM (ET)

St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
632 Madison St.  
Adrian, MI 49221

# Tribute Wall

WM

“ He was a coaching legend. His first year of coaching 1974-75 was my sophomore year at Hudson for basketball. Manchester beat us three times that year. I always followed his career and he will be missed! I just heard tonight that he passed away and I was saddened to hear that news. He was a special man and I was glad that I got to play against his teams for three years in high school even if it was against the Flying Dutch!

William Mullaly - October 25, 2024 at 08:59 PM

MI

“ Incredibly sorry for your loss. All our heartfelt condolences--Adrian Family Medicine-Mindy Houpt

Mindy - October 08, 2024 at 05:37 PM

AH

“ Ages ago Coach Bartels was my AAU Coach for several years. I had the privilege to play for him and with his talented daughter, Mellissa. I learned so much about the game from him and cherish the memories of my time on that team. My deepest condolences to the Bartels family. -Amanda (Weishuhn) Harris ❤️🏀

Amanda Harris - September 30, 2024 at 09:43 PM

VA

“ *Mr. Bartels was my coach when I played basketball in Britton and he invited 3 of us from JV to play in the District Championship. We didn't just get invited to keep the bench warm, we got to play. He believed in us, prepped us, encouraged us and we learned from him that with hard work and perseverance, we can accomplish anything. The attention and hours spent with Coach Bartels was valuable and taught me a lot of lessons and it helped shape my character. Coach, I thank you again for believing me and giving me the tools that helped shape me throughout life, not just basketball You will be missed!*

*Vanessa Arreguin #20*

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**Vanessa Arreguin** - September 30, 2024 at 03:09 PM

TM

“ *My wife, Sue, and I were fortunate to know Bart through his and Trudi's daughter, Melissa and her husband, Ben. He was a wonderful man, deservedly proud of his family and the definition of good company. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Know that your strong faith will serve you all well during this difficult time.*

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**Ted McDermott** - September 30, 2024 at 10:32 AM

CR

“ *Bart raised the level of everyone he touched his players with total confidence in them and opponents to compete against his passion and preparation. I was privileged to play against and work with Bart at Adrian when he asked me to help out a little( made me feel so important at a time I needed it ) RIP my friend Charlie*

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**Charlie Risner** - September 30, 2024 at 06:53 AM

JN

“ I had the pleasure of playing on one of Bart’s many basketball teams. As others have stated, he was more than a coach. Much more. He taught us not only how to be good basketball players and teammates, but how to be good people. Prayers and love to his family.

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**Jami Neuens** - September 30, 2024 at 05:43 AM

LB

“ It was nice too have known you and Turdie ❤️ my heart is with you all. And family!!

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**Linda berlanga** - September 29, 2024 at 01:46 PM

DD

“ I had the good fortune to play on the 1st Varsity BB team he coached. Our 1974-75 Manchester team went 15-6 after preseason predictions we’d finish near the bottom of the league, thanks in large part to Coach Bartels influence. My prayers go out to his entire family over losing this great family man and coach. Though we suspected it was possible, there was no way to know at 23 that he would go on to have such a great impact on so many players and people over the years!!

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**Dean Decker** - September 28, 2024 at 10:20 PM

SE

“Bart was an exceptional human being, he was an exceptionally talented coach. He was exceptional at developing positive relationships with his students/athletes. He was exceptional at preparing kids, on the court and off, preparing them for life. I cannot express the great respect that I had for Bart. He made me a better person as he did with all he came in contact with. I will miss his smile, his positiveness, his knowledge, and his caring. Bart exemplified integrity, class, discipline and pride. I will miss my friend greatly. I must remember and remind myself of his advice to me “develop the game plan, follow the game plan, trust the process”. Yes, I will miss my good friend tremendously.

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**Stephen Emert** - September 28, 2024 at 04:56 PM

 JoAnn  
Okey

“I remember Bart as an outstanding teacher in Klager Elementary. He and Jane Raus led an innovative team teaching program that provided unique educational opportunities for their students.

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**JoAnn Okey** - September 28, 2024 at 02:58 PM

TH

“During the years that Bart and I taught at Alexander Elementary, we would talk Michigan football almost every day during the season. I miss those in depth X's and O's discussions with coach. I'm glad he got to see them win the National Championship. I know it meant a lot to him. And when John Beilein was the Michigan basketball coach, Bart wanted to have a bracket tournament during March Madness but he didn't want to organize it so he talked me into doing it. His bracket was usually done early but we had a lot of fun talking basketball. He was a good friend and colleague.

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**Todd Holden** - September 28, 2024 at 09:28 AM

KF

*I remember Bart when we were teaching at Lincoln. He always had a joke and the first day of school he would say there are only 179 days left. He was a great guy.*

**Kathy Foor** - September 28, 2024 at 07:32 PM

MI

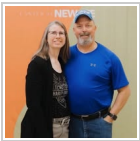
“ *I had the pleasure coaching against Coach when he was at Manchester. We loved to compete against each other. I followed his career and over the years we eventually coached together at Clinton. RIP dear friend and save me a seat at the table! 🙏❤️*

**Mike** - September 28, 2024 at 09:23 AM

BB

“ *Great coach and even better guy. His sense of humor lit up the room but never crossed the line to the point you didn't take him seriously. The difference he made in countless lives is immeasurable.*

**Brad B.** - September 28, 2024 at 08:47 AM



“ *I rember being part of the that first district championship in 1986/87 at Britton, beating the favored Whiteford. My favorite coach memories are of Bart helping me work on my post moves and shots before and after practice. He believed in his players and pushed us to succeed. He will be missed as a coach and a friend. RIP Coach.*



**Suzette Frayer Mayne Rose** - September 28, 2024 at 12:24 AM

MB

“ He was the greatest coach I ever had. I was horrible at basketball but he inspired me to work hard and practice. One of my proudest accomplishments in life was getting his Coach's award. I think of him often and always will. Thanks, Coach.

Michael Ball - September 28, 2024 at 12:13 AM



“ He was my 4th grade teacher and always made class fun and cared about his students he was so funny he will be missed for sure.

Janey Koch - September 27, 2024 at 11:58 PM

JU

“ To make a donation to the Tecumseh Girls Basketball Program - please use the QR Code.



Julie - September 27, 2024 at 02:52 PM

MA

“ Melinda Ahleman lit a candle in memory of Bart Bartels



Melinda Ahleman - September 27, 2024 at 01:01 PM

JR

“ Thoughts and prayers to all of us who knew Bart and was influenced by him. He was a role model in all aspects of his life well lived. I was blessed to have his mentorship during our years with Lincoln Elementary.

*With sincere sympathy, Jill Roberts*

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**Jill Roberts** - September 27, 2024 at 11:48 AM

ES

*Sincere thoughts and prayers to all of Barts family.I was blessed to work with Bart at Prairie where we worked in the reading program and did summer school one summer together. What a coach and friend! Rest in peace Bart!*

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**Elaine Stevenson** - September 29, 2024 at 08:32 PM