



Coach William D. Dupes

January 8, 2011

William D. Dupes - age 81 of Sweetwater, died Saturday afternoon, January 8, 2011 at Parkwest Medical Center after a short illness. With his passing, football lost a steadfast partner who understood that coaching was so much more than winning. Coach Bill Dupes was beloved by family, friends, and his former players.

Former UT football coach Phil Fulmer remembered his longtime friend as many will be remembering him, saying "I am honored to call Bill Dupes a good and loyal friend. He was a good man, loved his family, loved his friends, and touched many lives as a coach and teacher."

Fulmer added, "I am especially grateful for our time together talking about life, family, football, players, great wins and tough losses. He will be missed, but has left a legacy that made a difference."

Coach Dupes retired as head coach from Sweetwater High School in 1998. His 60 years playing and coaching football netted him inductions into four Halls of Fame (Tennessee Tech '79, Austin Peay '99, National Collegiate Athletic Association '03, and the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame '09). He also received a 1994 Amateur Football Award from the East Tennessee Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame.

A Sweetwater native, Dupes started his award-winning career with football as a player with the Sweetwater Wildcats, who he would eventually return to coach to the state championship in 1993. An All East Tennessee player at Sweetwater, he went on to Tennessee Tech, where he was an All-Ohio Valley

Conference player before graduating in 1952. Upon graduation, he was commissioned into the Army as a second lieutenant as a result of four years in ROTC.

After two years in the military and promotion to first lieutenant, he returned to start his coaching career as an assistant with the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles, who won five conference championships while he was there.

In 1963, Dupes took the helm for the Austin Peay Governors before turning full-time to high school football. At APSU, where former players have established the Bill Dupes Scholarship, he was selected unanimously as OVC Coach of the Year and had 23 players earn first-team All-OVC. Also while at APSU, Coach recruited Bonnie Sloan for the Governors. Sloan later became the first deaf player in the NFL when he signed on to play for the St. Louis Cardinals in 1973.

In 1976, Dupes turned his attention to high school football and returned to his home town, first coaching for five years at TMI and then, in 1983 coming full circle to be head coach of the Sweetwater Wildcats. In 1993, the same year that he coached his team to the AA State Championship, he was also selected Tennessee AA Coach of the Year.

Following his retirement in 1998, he continued to volunteer for three years as an assistant coach at Sweetwater. He also spent three years as an assistant coach at Catholic High School in Knoxville.

Coach Dupes was honored by a joint resolution by the Tennessee General Assembly upon his retirement, recognizing “the service rendered by our highly successful coaches, who work hard, provide exemplary motivation and train athletes to be good citizens...”

Coach Dupes is survived by his wife of 29 years, Peggy Studdard Armstrong Dupes; children, Bill and wife, Susanne of Knoxville; Mark and wife, Hollie, of Atlanta, GA; Donna Ryan, and husband, Paul, of Charlotte, NC; David, of Riceville, TN; Leslie Haywood, and husband, Buck, of Orlando, FL; Jody Armstrong, and wife, Mary, of Spartanburg, SC; Amy Armstrong, of Sweetwater; and six grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 12-2 p.m. Wednesday with services to follow at First United Methodist Church, 501 Church Street, Sweetwater.

Tribute Wall

RH

“ It was a true honor to know such a man as coach Dupes, he touched so many lives. I will always cherish his stories and that laugh. Go rest high on that mountian Bill You earned it .
Rick and Sherry Hood
Spring Hill Florida

Rick and Sherry Hood - February 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Peggy, I'm sorry to hear about your husband. I was unable to get to Sweetwater for the service but I wanted to let you know I was praying for you and your family. I think about you and your sister often. God Bless You, Denna Bea

Denna Bea Raper - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

VP

“ Peggy, We are so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. We will remember you and your family in our thoughts and prayers during this time of sorrow. He was a special guy. We often laugh at the fond memories he and Mickey shared on the football field and at family gatherings. What better way to be remembered. Love you guys!

Vickie & Mickey Plemons

Vickie & Mickey Plemons - January 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Peggy,
We sorry for the loss of Bill. We sure miss hime at round table every morning at Buddy's. Our prayers are with you and Bill. He found the perfect home.

Dennis and Anila Kshatri - January 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Sorry for the loss of a great man. Bill was a great friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.
Robert and Jan Mayberry-Riceville

Robert Mayberry - January 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Our condolences to you Mrs. Dupes and your family. I know many lives have been changed because of Coach Dupes. Many stories and memories to be told. My family and others will know of him for years to come. The angels in heaven are surely amazed at the new friend they just met. I hope they dont take his handsome smile and great stories for a weakness. He has been know to do damage to a clipboard or two. Keep smiling Dupes family. You've done good by us all. God Bless!

Barry and Family (Michigan) McCowan - January 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Peggy and family, Truly the world lost a great man. May you find comfort in memories and the love of friends.

Louise Barnes - January 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ I am so sorry to here of Coach Dupes passing. I remember him from TMI. He was a wonderful father, educator, and coach. May you find comfort in all the wonderful memories that you have of him. God Bless

Patricia Smith Edington - January 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WP

“ Peggy,
Our condolences to you and yours. You are in our prayers and we are here if we can do anything for you during this time of loss.
Doug, David, Derrick, Christy & Susan

Warren & Tallent CPA's PLLC - January 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Dupps Family
Our prayers are with all of you. Bill was a wonderful person and he will be missed by so many.

Donnie & Sharrol Huffman - January 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Sorry for the loss of ur loved one. He was an awesome man and a wonderful coach. He taught me a lot about the life I had to look forward to.

burlen ballard - January 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Peggy and family: We are so sorry for your loss. Bill will truly be missed by your community and friends across the country. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families at this time.

*Frank & Linda
Winter Garden Fl*

Linda & Frank Dillon - January 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Bill Dupes. He was that guy. He had that innate understanding of human nature and how to influence someone to be as good if not better than they thought they could be. Bill was a prolific story teller and when you heard him spin a story he made you want to be good enough to be in one of those stories one day. I had the honor of seeing Bill inducted into the Sports Hall Of Fame. This represents a lifetime achievement recognized by those that came into contact with him. We never heard him toot his own horn but he leaves a legacy that will toot it for him. He was a great man that will be dearly missed.*

Bob Moorhead - January 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ *I'm so sorry for your lose! He was a great man, not only as a coach but as a friend and person. I will remember the 4 years that I got to be coached by him and his staff as we won the State Title! He acheived so much with his passion of the sport that most people would find hard to beleive! He would use those stories of former players such as the deaf lineman that would never jump offsides. He was a powerful motivator on and off the field. I now find myself as a coach thinking back to what would Coach Dupes do in certain situations. My family's Love goes out to your familys because you truly lost a great MAN. The MAN, the LEGACY, Mr Coach Bill Dupes of the Sweetwater Wildcats forever will be remembered!!!
God bless*

tate price - January 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Can anyone imagine how many lives Bill Dupes has touched as a coach and teacher? I did not know he was ill. The last time I saw him at the liars table he said he would outlive me. Well coach you didn't in days but in lives affected and accomplishments you will live forever in many lives. I know myself I have a lot of stories. Multiply that by thousands and you have the measure of a man for all seasons. I am just sorry I never told him I loved and respected him. I will miss him!!

steve and sun bebb - January 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ My condolences and sympathy go out to the family,I was on those 90-93 SHS teams and I remember his family would frequent the practices and games, so I know he loved yall very much and vice versa. He was a great motivator he could encourage you w/a story or light a fire under you,whichever was needed at the time. Most of all he was a man of character and dignity and because of this he left a legacy and will be missed. GO BIG BLUE!! will always include the memory of Coach Bill Dupes. Rest in peace coach, and again I am so sorry for your loss.

Jeremy Hubbard - January 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ To David and Peggy... I am so sorry to hear of your loss. May God give you peace at this time. We are praying for you all.

Chris, Ginger & Emily Arden - January 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HE

“ To : *The Dupes Family*

You are in our thoughts and prayers. Coach Dupes leaves a lasting legacy and will truly be missed. He had a tremendous impact in our lives as well as many many others. God Bless and We Love You !!
The Ervins

Harry & Heather Ervin - January 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM