



Mr. Rudolph "Rudy" "Coach" Benedetti

January 30, 1920 - June 18, 2016

Mr. Rudolph "Rudy" "Coach" Benedetti, 96 passed away on Saturday, June 18, 2016, at Springside Nursing Home in Pittsfield.

He was born in Rowe, MA on January 30, 1920, the son of Severino and Elisabetta (Rosa) Benedetti.

A 1939 graduate of Drury H.S. where he was a three-letter athlete. After graduating from Norwich University in 1944, he served in the Army Air Corp flying and training pilots during WWII. He received a Master Degree in teaching from Springfield College.

While coaching track at Drury H.S. from 1952 – 1957, he won three consecutive Western Mass track championships

He coached skiing, and track at Pittsfield H. S. from 1958 to 1978. As Pittsfield's ski coach, his teams won nine straight Interscholastic Championships.

His true passion however was track and field. His track teams won six consecutive Western Mass Championships (1964 -1970), and also won again in 1971 and 1974.

In 1969, he was named Berkshire County's Coach of the year by WBEC sports caravan. In 1981, he was the first track coach from Western Mass. to be inducted into the Massachusetts Track and Field Coaches Association's Hall of Fame. He retired from teaching in 1982 and moved to Ormond Beach. He is predeceased by his wife of 71 years, Pearl (Gagner) Benedetti.

He is survived by his three children, Gery Benedetti and his wife Katie of

Charlemont, MA. Two daughters Lisa Lahey and her husband Jim of New Lebanon, NY and Sherry Benedetti Zepka and her husband Jim of Cheshire, MA.

Four Grandchildren Gery Benedetti and his wife Anemone, John Lahey and his wife Amanda, Kellie Burns and her husband Dan, and Kristie Kordana of Fort Collins, CO.

Four Great grandchildren Beau James, Keegan, Rachael and Wylie.

He was predeceased by his brothers William and Henry Benedetti, his twin sister Debe, (Rhodes), Law; and his sisters Amy Zocchi and Oliva Primer.

He is survived by his sisters Alma Benedetti and Mary Caffery, and his brother-in-law Louis Zocchi, all of North Adams, and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services and burial will be private for the family.

There are no calling hours.

Tribute Wall

JN

“ I was on Coach Benedetti's PHS track team in 1963. He was a wonderful coach, and simply a gem of a man. God Bless Him.

James Novak - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

BP

“ Benedetti Family So sorry for your loss..Coach was a great man who will be missed by all.I really loved having him as my coach,and will never forget him.

bob pinsonneault - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

KH

“ Dear Benedetti Family,Please accept my condolences. I was an athlete at PHS when Coach Benedetti served in Physical Education and also as the trainer. He was a kind and good man who cared for his students. He was respected for his abilities and much liked for the person he was. Coach Benedetti was a good role model and was a rock for boys to count on as they made the journey to becoming a man. Please know, that he helped a lot of kids and that he was one of the ones that made a difference. There will always be a warm place in my heart for Coach Benedetti and the smile he greeted us with.

Ken Hydinger - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

BM

“ What great memories of Coach. I was on the ski team from 1962-1964. I liked his laughter. In my days now, I look back and realize his wisdom. I can still see him at the State Forest for ski training, in the PHS gym, his office and on the field in back of the school. Heaven is getting a great coach.

Bill Martin - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

KG

“ I was a member of the P.H.S. Class of 1969 and student of Coach Benedetti (and Coach Sylvester)(I was on the first wrestling team). I have never known better sports and athletic teachers. Please accept my deepest sympathy on your loss. My respect for him will always be my memory.

Kermit Goodman - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM



“ Although only on his track team my senior year at PHS in 1961, Coach Benedetti was an inspiration to not only me (to do my best) but also to the whole team. He will truly be remembered as one of the "great ones."Jim Hickey, Rome, Italy

June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

WO

“ Coach Benedetti was a terrific man, as well as a great coach. He treated everyone with honor and respect. I played football and ran track for four years with coach always motivating me. After a bad football injury my freshman year Coach kept me together for the rest of my football career. He was a very knowledgeable trainer. He spent hours just taping me everyday. He allowed me to have a great deal of fun with both sports. I will never forget his wonderful attitude. I have now coached both football and lacrosse for over thirty years. My hope is that I am half the coach he was.

William O'Brien-Garvey - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

MZ

“ Condolences to cousins Gerry, Lisa and Sherry. Uncle Rudy taught me to swim at Clarksburg State park when I was at Mark Hopkins. I'm still an avid swimmer of laps.

Mary Zocchi - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

SH

“ Coach Benedetti was a true gentleman and always took an interest in my sports career at PHS. I fondly remember he was my driving instructor to earn my driving license and he would tell me stories about the early days of doing "road work" (ie jogs") which in the 50's was odd. He coached my brother Craig in track which clearly was his life long passion. We all have had special coaches and I know Rudy was one for many PHS athletes. God bless Rudy Benedetti and my prayers are with his family at this time of grief and celebration of this special man's life.

Stephen Harris - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

JH

“ Coach Rudi helped me grow and gave me confidence in my abilities in track (1962-64) and life. A very good man, leader, mentor and of course coach. In peace...

Joseph Healy - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

MR

“ Peace Be Unto You Benedetti family and my condolences. Coach Benedetti was an amazing coach and a real character. He commanded respect, made discipline fun, and showed us the Benedetti(fits) that could be achieved with consistency and determination. I don't remember missing a practice in three seasons at PHS (64-66). Our team was devastating, and when the visitors got off of the bus, their demeanor said, why even bother against the mighty Generals. Coach Benedetti was a master motivator and psychologist, and as a track and field coach of 40 plus years I have incorporated his methods in my coaching style and with great success! He used to say, good, better, best, never let it rest, until your good is better, and your better is best and when the going gets tough, the tough get going. May Allah reward you and your wife with Paradise and your family with the best of this world and the next!!

Mulazimuddin Rasool - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

SS

“ A great man who will be missed by so many including all of us at Springside. Sending your family out our thoughts and prayer. May you find peace in all the happy memories you've shared.

Springside Staff - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

BB

“ Sorry to hear about Rudi's passing. Gary and girls, he was a great coach and a wonderful man and uncle. All the best to you, Bob Benedetti

Bob Benedetti - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

JC

“ I am deeply saddened. Coach was one of the great role models for me in my younger days.

Joe Cain - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

BH

“ I ran track for Coach Benedetti my senior year and thanks to his brilliant and intense workouts I had a fair amount of success. And with that came increased confidence, new friends and better grades and paved the way for a healthy and successful life. I owe a lot to this man. Thanks Coach for all you gave me and so many others.

Brad Herder - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

TM

“ *Benedetti family, Sad to hear of Rudy's passing what a great guy. Our prayers are with you. Had Rudy more than a few times at PHS. Weight training 4 times a week due to a crowded Schedule senior year , what a blast. He will be missed by all he crossed paths with. Thomas Martin and Family*

Thomas Martin - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

DC

“ *Coach was my teacher, my coach, my mentor, my coaching opponent, my friend. My memories begin in 1963 and will remain with me forever. He was genuinely a good man and impacted the lives of so many people. I will miss him dearly.*

Deane Christopolis - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

LD

“ *I was on Coach Benedetti's PHS track teams in 1963 and 1964. Coach was a great motivator. I'll always remember Coach for his positive attitude and his encouragement and support to make us all better. My condolences to the Benedetti family.*

Len Delmolino - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

PC

“ *Coach taught me so much. In many ways he changed my life and enabled me to succeed. See the photo from the first track meet in 1964. Look at his intensity at the finish line. Thank you Coach Rudy.*

Philip Caropreso - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM

AR

“ *Fantastic coach and an even better person. Still have great memories of competing for him on the PHS track team and when he was the football team trainer.* Allan E. Reis MD.

Allan Reis - June 07, 2018 at 11:28 AM



“ *Mr. Rudolph "Rudy" "Coach" Benedetti*

July 17, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Coach took me on in driver's ed and truly was such a sweet man! During lessons we talked sports and he would listen to me in such a caring way during my tumultuous teen years. I'll never forget the kindness he showed me and so many others. May his spirit rest easy.*

June 24, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Lisa, Gery and Sherri I am so very sorry for your loss. Your dad was an amazing man and I will never forget all the childhood memories I had with pearl and Rudi.*

June 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *Rest in peace Coach. You will be missed.*

June 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM