



Harry Joe Masch

March 14, 1942 - May 15, 2025

Harry Joe Masch passed away on March 15, 2025, after a long, courageous battle with cancer. He was competitive to the end.

Harry was born in Beaumont, Texas and raised in Austin. He played basketball at the University of Texas at Austin and St. Edwards University and later received his bachelor's degree in English from UT Austin and master's degree in education from Oklahoma City University. He coached basketball for 43 years in La Grange, Austin, Tyler and Odessa, Texas. Harry coached the Lanier High School Vikings boys' team from 1972-1981 and took them to the UIL State Tournament in 1979. Harry's Lanier teams won five district championships in nine years. He was named Coach of the Year in District 26AAAA in 1979. He was often profiled in the press and those who knew Harry, including reporters and rival coaches, described him as intense and disciplined and one who worked hard to get the best out of his players and students.

Harry then moved to the college level in 1983 as assistant coach to former UT legend Abe Lemons at Oklahoma City University, achieving a 34-1 record in 1987. Always the athlete and competitor, he turned to cycling as a pastime and won many bicycle races in Oklahoma and beyond.

Harry was a devoted family man and enjoyed spending time with those he

loved, especially when a competition was involved. Harry was an avid golfer and played every day that he could with his beloved friends, Mike and Gwen Irwin, his brother Trent, and his son Scott. He loved his black lab, Dixie, and took her with him everywhere he went. He loved to cook, especially BBQ, that he shared generously with family and friends.

Harry is survived by his son Scott Masch, grandson Austin Masch, brothers Trent Masch and wife Laura, and Fritz Masch. He was preceded in death by his son Mark Masch, sister Jean Masch, mother Jeannette Brown and stepfather R.C. Brown, and his beloved grandmother, Dorothy Masch, who taught him to cook.

Harry touched many lives, and we are all better for having known him. He loved life, and his hearty laugh, quick wit, and positive attitude will be truly missed. The family would like to express gratitude to his oncologist, Dr. Paul Corn, MD, and staff at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston for their care over many years. If desired, donations can be made to MD Anderson to further their research at www.mdanderson.org

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

2 Timothy 4:7-8

Tribute Wall

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“ I wish I had known about Coach Masch's passing sooner. He was my Health teacher when I was a Sophomore at Odessa High in 1993-1994. He always had us write quotes to study in that class and watch videos of the Lady Broncos basketball team. Here are a few of the quotes I still remember to this day that I have shared with my son; who is 10.

Discipline is doing what you have to do, when you have to do it, and doing it the best you can at that time you do it, whether you want to or not.

Mental is to physical as 4 is to 1.

People live life with no sense of direction. It's like they are riding on a Greyhound Bus and the only time they get off is to pee.

There were many more. Thanks Coach Masch for your words of wisdom that transcends generations.

Preston McGee OHS class of 1996 - August 03, 2025 at 11:07 PM

BE

“ Harry's son Mark was among my closest friends in high school. Being around the three Masch men was a testosterone-filled treat. Mr. Masch, as we called him, made us all try a little harder. "Perfect practice makes perfect" was one quote he improved that impressed upon me how important it was to make the most of your efforts.

Brian Ellstrom - May 30, 2025 at 07:46 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album *Harry Masch Photos*



Laura Townsend - May 29, 2025 at 03:10 PM