



Eugene S Sobolewski

March 15, 1941 - November 14, 2015

Eugene S. “Gene” Sobolewski, 74, of Doylestown, OH, formerly of Clarion, passed away on Saturday, November 14, 2015 at the Akron City Hospital in Akron, Ohio.

He was born on March 15, 1941 in Freeport, PA; the son of the late Charles J. and Pauline Varos Sobolewski.

Gene was married on December 20, 1969 to Carol M. Miller, who survives.

Gene has had a rich history at Clarion University from 1971-2004. He came to Clarion in 1971 as an assistant football coach and a member of the health and physical education faculty and remained here committed to our students and athletes for 33-years. As a member of the football staff Gene was the offensive line coach from 1971-72, the offensive coordinator from 1973-81, defensive linebackers coach in 1982 and then the Golden Eagles head football coach for 11 seasons (1983-93). During his tenure as head coach Sobolewski led Clarion to PSAC-West titles in 1983 and 1992, a PSAC title in 1983, an overall record of 60-51 and a PSAC-West record of 37-29. He was named PSAC-West “Coach of the Year” in 1983 and 1992 and Kodak Region I “Coach of the Year” in 1983. During his years as an assistant coach Sobolewski also helped Clarion win PSAC-West titles in 1977, 78 and 80, and PSAC titles in 1977 and 1980. Including his time as an assistant coach and a head coach, the Eagle football team enjoyed an overall record of 144-81-3, or a winning percentage of 63.8%. Gene retired from football following the 1993 football season, but continued to be highly involved in the HPE Department as

an Associate Professor. He was the HPE Chair from 1992-96, while also serving as HPE Chair from 1979-83. Inducted into the Clarion University Sports Hall of Fame in 2002, he has also been inducted into the A-K Valley (1984) and the Armstrong County (1980) Sports Halls of Fame. Gene was named co-winner of the Clarion Distinguished Faculty Award with Charlie Ruslavage in 1977. Sobolewski and Ruslavage developed the curriculum for the "Coaching Certification Program" at Clarion. A native of Freeport, Pa. and a 1960 graduate of Freeport High, Gene earned three football and two basketball letters at Freeport High. A co-captain of the football and basketball teams his senior year, Gene accepted a full scholarship to Pitt for the Fall of 1960. Devoting his time to football with the Panthers, Sobolewski earned three football letters from 1961-63 and was a starter on the 1962 and 1963 teams at defensive end on teams coached by John Michelosen.. The 1963 Panthers were 9-1 and ranked third in the nation, with Pitt's only loss coming to Navy. Over his career Sobolewski sacked famous Navy QB Roger Staubach seven times. After gaining his B.S. Degree in HPE at Pitt in 1964, he taught and was an assistant football coach at Lincoln High in Ellwood City from 1964-66 and at Beaver High from 1966-68 under coach Pat Tarquinnio. He went to Waynesburg College and was the defensive coordinator for the Yellow Jackets for three years compiling a record of 19-9, before coming to Clarion for the 1971 season under coach Al Jacks.

He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church where he was a lector. Gene was also a volunteer for charitable deeds and a member of the Campus Ministry.

Gene was the original guiding spirit for the development of a new Clarion County YMCA. A former president of the YMCA, Sobolewski was one of the leading advocates for a full service YMCA in Clarion County, drawing on his long professional career of advocating health and recreational activities for Clarion County as a teacher and coach at Clarion University.

Whether you knew him as Sobie, coach, or Gene, he was all about a new full

service YMCA and expanding services for young people and other residents. Offering the motivation and encouragement of a coach to his "team," Sobolewski attracted others and convinced them to join in his dream. All will miss him, but his spirit and dream will live on with a new Clarion County YMCA, scheduled to break ground in 2016.

He is survived by his wife, three children, Dr. Erika Sobolewski and husband, Jeffery Nichols of Doylestown, Ohio, Jason Sobolewski and wife Natelie of Naperville, Ill, Blake Sobolewski and Annie of Meadville, PA, six grandchildren, Cole, Charlie, Whitier, Gabe, Elaine, and Addison, on brother, Charles Sobolewski and wife Karen of Plantation, FL.

Gene is preceded in death by his parents.

Family will receive friends from 2 to 7 p.m. on Friday, November 20, 2015 at the Robert V. Burns Funeral Home in Clarion.

Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 21, 2015 at the Immaculate Conception Church in Clarion.

Entombment will follow in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery Mausoleum.

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations may be sent to the Clarion County YMCA Capital Campaign in memory of Gene.

Tribute Wall

SA

“ So sorry too hear did not know him like I did his son's but if he was anything like them he sure was a giving person. Your in God's hands

Stephen allard - June 08, 2022 at 09:11 AM

JA

“ gene was a great guy. he always stood up for me and comforted me when I was benched.

Joe Abal - March 10, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EZ

“ My condolences to the Sobolewski family, I remember Mr Sobolewski fondly. My mom, Donna was his secretary and I saw him often when I visited the gymnasium offices. He was such a nice man. May he Rest in Peace.

Erin Avery Zacherl - January 13, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Carol & family,

I just found out about Gene today (12/27/15). I am so sorry for your loss

I had run into Gene a few months ago behind CVS & it was so good to see him. I used to work at Clarion University & was a faithful workout person at the gym during my term at Clarion (1971-2004). I got to know the faculty members in Phys. Ed. very well. They were great folks. Carol Clay was my roommate during her tenure at Clarion, so I got to know the faculty even more than the "usual" employee.

He was a good friend & a wonderful person. You were lucky to have him as your husband & the father of your kids.

God bless you all. Know you are in my prayers....as Gene will always be a fond memory of a good friend.

Pam Burford - December 27, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you Erika ,Jason.Blake

Mark - December 05, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ Carol and family,

My siblings and I had not been close to Genie or Chuckie for many years. When Uncle Gene passed, my brother, Eddie, and I had planned to attend his funeral, but things did not work out. Just want to send sincere sympathy from our family. I know you all loved Genie so much and have awesome memories!

*Much love and many prayers,
Fran*

Fran Sobolewski Smith - November 24, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Dear family: Gene and I were rival coaches. We became friends over the years. He was a great player and coach in High School and College. He was a wonderful ambassador for Clarion. I will miss his smile and Fellowship. My condolences to you and Clarion. May the Lord Bless and Keep you in this Sad time.

Gene Sullivan - November 23, 2015 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ Sending our most sincere sympathies for your loss. Tom and Carole Tarquinio

Thomas Tarquinio - November 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BO

“ Carol and Family ,
Sobie was a great friend . We will all miss him . God bless him . Our condolences and deepest sympathies .

Beth and Thomas Oliver - November 21, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ Erika - I am saddened by your loss. You, your family, and your father are in my thoughts and prayers. - Brad

Brad Murphy - November 20, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Gene was a physical education instructor for one of my classes while attending CUP for my teaching certification 1990-94 school years. He was a very humble man and loved everyone. You didn't have to question his authority because he made everything very clear and expected you to follow through the same way. He definitely was a great role model. However, I am sure his kids are fine examples of this leadership in their own personal lives. Gene loved Carol and his kids and spoke well of them all the time. So the Sobolewski family will have to carry on the legacy of a fine man: Mr. Gene Sobolewski. Your family has my deepest sympathy at this time. Just focus on all of Greatness this man has brought into your lives and keep his legacy living within your lives to share with others.

Duane Henry - November 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EY

“ This message is being written by me, but I write for all of us who were coached by Coach Sobolewski during his first year at Lincoln High in Ellwood City.

We want to express our deepest sympathies to all who shared the life of Coach. He was a wonderful person, who we all had great respect for.

He came to Ellwood fresh off a wonderful career at Pitt. However, even though he had such success he was reachable and understood, not without a word warning though, our pranks. Some of the guys I write for, today, have followed his coaching career down through the years. I am not one of them, but as I have read it was quite a successful one, to say the least.

I must mention, the last time we shared time with Coach was at our Christmas Party here in Ellwood a few years back. It was great to see him. and speaking for all of us, we were very happy he came. The last time I spoke to Coach he mentioned to me about his health issues, but even then he was positive in attitude and his faith in God.

Before closing, let me say, “Coach you are in Heaven now with Chuck, who proceeded you by a couple weeks. I'm sure Charlie is working very hard at pulling one of his pranks on you.”

Now in closing allow me say, "God Bless you all who loved Coach Sobolewski." Our Lord called home, "one of His good guys."

The 1964 football season Wolverines.

Ernest Young - November 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DQ

“ I have always appreciated Gene as a man and as a coach. I was grateful for the way he treated my sons and especially Jess. He gave him the opportunity and guidance to play for the Golden Eagles and put him in a position to help him win one of those PSAC championships.

Always a joy in conversation. Thanks Gene!

Duane Quinn - November 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Dear Carol and family, We lost a good neighbor and good friend. We will always have fond memories of talking across the back yards and tomato growing contests! You have our deepest sympathy. Love and prayers, Gregg and Jean

Gregg and Jean Smith - November 19, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Sobe was a great golf friend. I remember many great times playing with him and Charlie, Bob Yoho and me.

Ron Whitehill - November 18, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Dear Carol and family,
We've loved you all for a long, long, time, so our sadness for your loss is great. Gene was such a cool guy, and it's hard to put into words how sad we feel. Our prayers for God's love, comfort, and peace are with you. He was definitely "one of the good guys," and we'll always remember our days living in your back yard, and the fun we had.

Much love!

Dena & Chuck Kahle - November 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ Coach was a driving force to help the Clarion Football Program become a winner. He was a strong proponent of hiring and supporting Chris Weibel. Coach's wish came true. Chris led his team to 7-4, a WINNER and the fundraising drive he initial led, then turned over to the Chairman and Chris Weibel is now over \$300,000. Coach the last two years we have given \$30,000 in Scholarships to Clarion Football players. THANK YOU on their behalf.

Bo Garritsno - November 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ To the Sobolewski Family: The true story behind the new Y.

Coach selected me to lead the Clarion County YMCA as his Director in 2011. Immediately I got caught up in his energy and passion for a new full-service YMCA. He would visit other Y's in towns along his travels, come back and give us an earful. "You should see this Y, they had this, that, and the other...he would go on and on." His passion spread quickly to our board where he began recruiting and motivating individuals who could identify with his dream. For many people this was impossible, just a dream, something else in Clarion that would never be done. Wherever he was you could hear him talking about the YMCA. "We can do this. Together, we can build a new Y." Remarkably, it wasn't long before we were researching new homes for the Y. He took our board on road trips to visit over 10 different YMCA's. Five years later, we have designated the new home for the YMCA, raised almost 90% of the funds right here locally, and are now fighting for those final 10 yards to the goalline. Coach was the spark, the fire that ignited us all. He convinced us to think BIGGER and BELIEVE IN HIS DREAM. On behalf of us all at the YMCA, please accept our deepest sympathy and condolences. We love you coach, we miss you, and we will make you proud.

Jesse Kelley - November 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Dear Mrs. Sobolewski - I am so very sorry to hear of the loss of your husband. Please know I am keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers.

Shannon Breniman dePrado - November 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Dear Sobolewski Family,

I was saddened to hear of your Husband and Dad's passing. Please know that he is watching over you now as your guardian angel. He was such a kind gentleman. My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.

Joyce Yeany DiTullio - November 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I always enjoyed Coach Sobolewski as coach and teach at Clarion U. God Bless Family

Jim Breth - November 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ Carol, Jason, Erica and Blake,
Our family has such sweet memories of Gene and your entire family! You were the best neighbors ever! Our hearts are sad with you as you had to say goodbye to this remarkable husband and father.. for now. We all yearn for a "better time and a better place", where Gene is now. Until then....Prayers for comfort and peace as you all begin a new season in your life.

Love,

Dennis, Sissy, Brittany, Julianne, and Derek

Sissy Jochmann - November 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ Thoughts and prayers to all family and friends of Coach Sobolewski. Thanks for everything that you did for me Coach- you will be missed.

Art Walker - November 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ To Carol and all Gene's friends my deepest sympathy...Gene was such an ardent supporter during my time as Campus Minister for our Clarion Campus Ministry...his wise counsel and love of our students was so appreciated..Remembering Gene and the family at Mass Nov 18th at St Elizabeth Seton, Sun City , AZ.....well done good and faithful servant..

Msgr. Jan Olowin - November 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Dear Erika, Jason and Blake - I was deeply saddened by the news of your dad's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Shannon Breniman dePrado - November 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Sobolewski and Clarion University family who mourn the loss of Coach Sobie. In life there are a few individuals one can identify as having true impact in one's life. Coach was one of those special men, who gave all he had to the players in his charge and I am grateful for his example and guidance.

Lou Weiers - November 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Dear Erika & family, I'd like to send you my deepest condolences. May you find peace & comfort in all the wonderful, beautiful memories uou shared together. He is now your angel looking over you everyday. Hugs & prayers to you all. Love, Marisa Díaz

Marisa Diaz - November 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ My Mother (Cecilia McCloskey) always spoke well of your family as she was your neighbor for many years. I send our family's sympathy. Eugene made so many contributions both in his career and his personal life and I am sorry to hear of his passing.

Scholie (McCloskey) Guziak - November 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ I am deeply saddened by coach's death. He had such great charisma. He is one of my heroes. Please know that Cindi and I will say a few prayers for Coach and his lovely family.

Bob Beatty - November 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ My deepest sympathy for the recent loss of your dad. You and your family will be kept in my thoughts and prayers.

Heather (Fulton) Holbrook - November 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ I remember 30 years - from the South St Polish Falcon Club - Gene's favorite dog, Britter - the first tomato race with Fred - the invite to poker, with dinner at 9 - "Billy May" Sobolewski - yellow jacket reaction - and "You dumb s---!" Everyone should recall their memories in a condolence. Thank you, Gene.

Chipper - November 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM