



## Ali Rahnavardi

January 30, 1968 - December 10, 2021

Ali Rahnavardi was born January 30, 1968 in Tehran, Iran. Growing up, Ali played numerous sports. He once said the only sports he thought he never played were ice hockey and curling. He excelled at racquet sports, especially tennis and racquetball. He played soccer, cricket, rugby, swimming, football, skiing, and wrestling. He was a natural athlete and could pick up almost any sport with little to no effort. Later in life he played golf and took up fishing. He moved to England in 1979 to attend boarding school when the Revolution happened in his home country. In 1981, Ali, his brother Amir, and his mother Guity, joined his dad Hassan “Ronny” in California. He attended high school in WestLake Village, just outside of Los Angeles, and graduated in 1985.

He attended Junior College at Moorpark Community College in Moorpark, California. He then spent several years managing a Domino's Pizza in Westlake Village. In 1990, Ali visited Iowa and fell in love with UNI. He started at UNI to finish his education in the Winter of 1991. He always said if he had visited in December instead of August, he never would have moved to Iowa. He arrived in January 1992 to a winter wonderland, and no winter coat.

Ali met his future wife Joanna through a family member and they started dating in the fall of 1992. They had their son Zach in February of 1994, and were married in Cedar Falls on October 1, 1994. After graduating from UNI with a degree in Physical Education and Coaching, Ali and Joanna decided to

make Cedar Falls their permanent home. In September 2002, Cael arrived to complete their family.

Ali started coaching in Waterloo in the spring of 1995, where he was the first coach for the Men's Soccer program at West High School. He returned to school to get his special education endorsement during this time. In addition to coaching soccer, he was a substitute teacher and coached club volleyball. Before getting a permanent teaching job in Waterloo, Ali substitute taught in several districts, he was also an assistant volleyball coach for Union/LaPorte. In the spring of 1998 he was named the Varsity Volleyball coach at West High and started teaching for the district as a Special Education teacher. For several seasons he coached volleyball in the fall and soccer in the spring. After handing the soccer program off to his very capable assistant coaches, he took a coaching position as an assistant wrestling coach at West High. He retired, or so he thought at the time, from volleyball in 2006. In 2008, he was named the Varsity Volleyball coach at East High. In 2011, he left high school volleyball. He coached freshmen volleyball at Holmes Junior high for 2 seasons before focusing on spending more time with his boys and their activities. He was a volunteer coach for almost every season for Zach and Cael. He loved coaching and wanted to make a difference for countless athletes, including his own boys.

Ali continued to teach Special Education in Waterloo until his passing, having taught at West High School, East High School, and Expo High School. In his spare time he loved fishing, golf, watching sports, yelling at officials, playing cards, and spending time with family and friends.

Ali is preceded in death by his son Zach. He leaves behind his wife Joanna (Marquart) Rahnavardi, his son Cael Rahnavardi, his parents Hassan "Ronny" Rahnavardi and Guity Rahnavardi and his brother Amir Rahnavardi.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ” 2 Timothy 4:7.

Ali fought the good fight, he was a relentless warrior until the end. Ali passed away peacefully December 10, 2021. He touched us all and his generosity and loving spirit will be missed.

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

12th and Division Streets  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 273-8628

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **15.** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Orchard Hill Church  
3900 Orchard Hill Drive  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

## Funeral Service

DEC **16.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Orchard Hill Church  
3900 Orchard Hill Drive  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

# Tribute Wall



“ *Theo T. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Ali Rahnavardi.* ”



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**Theo T.** - December 21, 2021 at 12:42 AM



“ *I remember him from West High. He always had something positive to say. My condolences to the family during this very difficult time.* ”

*Theo TePaske*

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**Theodore TePaske** - December 21, 2021 at 12:30 AM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Ali Rahnavardi.* ”



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December 19, 2021 at 01:00 AM

DF

“ Dear Cael,  
We are so saddened to hear about the loss of your beloved father. May the Lord comfort you and give you peace. We will be praying for your family. God has great plans for your life. God bless you.

*The Diaz family (Bas Diaz)*

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**Diaz Family** - December 17, 2021 at 05:08 PM

JC

“ Joanna and Cael I'm so sorry about this. You 2 have been through alot! I remember Ali very well from the rec center. He would wear a hot suit blue top and sit in the sauna. I also remember him in the weight room with his sons, too. I'm shock to have seen his picture in the obituaries. I had no idea he was sick.

*Thinking of you and sorry*

*Jeanne Clapsaddle- Janssen*

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**Jeanne Clapsaddle** - December 16, 2021 at 08:36 PM

JJ

“ Joanna and Cael...I was deeply saddened to read about Ali's passing...he was a wonderful caring father...I am so sorry for your loss...my sincerest condolences...best always...Jack "Mr. D." Darland, Jr.

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**Jack Darland, Jr.** - December 16, 2021 at 01:54 PM

GY

“ Joanna-The Cedar Valley is lucky to have you and Ali work in the school system. You guys have made our community a great place to live. The hard work, dedication, and the love you two and your family have given this community is phenomenal. May Ali Rest In Peace.

Gordy Yuska - December 16, 2021 at 10:15 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ali Rahnavardi.



December 15, 2021 at 11:03 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ali Rahnavardi.



December 15, 2021 at 01:28 PM

IZ

“ Izzy sent a virtual gift in memory of Ali Rahnavardi



izzy - December 15, 2021 at 11:10 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ali Rahnavardi.



December 15, 2021 at 09:56 AM



“ Theresa Steiber-Moncada lit a candle in memory of Ali Rahnavardi



**Theresa Steiber-Moncada** - December 15, 2021 at 09:55 AM



“ I always enjoyed chatting with Ali on the sidelines of the football games and at many wrestling meets, while Joanna and I took photos! Ali was a great man and he will be missed by the community.

**janae Ohrt** - December 15, 2021 at 07:45 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ali Rahnavardi.



December 14, 2021 at 05:37 PM

SP

“ Ali and I shared students at East High. No matter how maddening it could be, Ali would always get us laughing! He had a really big heart and made people feel like they belong. He will be missed by so many!

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**Sally Priebe** - December 14, 2021 at 04:55 PM

JB

“ What I will always remember about Ali was his kind heart. Back in the day with UNI Volleyball when I was an assistant and Ali was a student manager, he and I went out and played a round of golf before practice. We had so much fun together and it is such a fond memory for me. You can tell a lot about a person after playing a round of golf-Ali endeared himself to me that day. Our paths have not crossed much in recent years. I will always remember him as a very kind and respectful man who loved his family and life! My condolences to his family.

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**jan Bittner** - December 14, 2021 at 04:15 PM

TA

“ Coach, you left a lasting impact. Rest in peace.

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**Tracy Arthur** - December 14, 2021 at 01:02 PM

JD

“ Joanna and family,  
I was shocked to see the obituary today. I have nothing but happy memories of Ali. He would always have a friendly, positive message when I saw him. Over years of sharing students, we had fun. Although I didn't see him often these days, know that I have nothing but positive memories of Ali. My prayers are with you all.  
Jim Day

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**James Day** - December 14, 2021 at 10:09 AM

KD

“ Joanna, Zach & Cael: I am so sorry for your loss. While I might have often been the ref when he was "yelling at officials", I never felt like it was a personal thing with him. He was very demonstrative and I specifically remember a match at UNI (the old gym) when he sat behind the First Referee (R1). Everyone was close in that facility. I was the 2nd Ref (R2) that night. After the first set, the R1 called me over and wanted him removed from the facility because of his yelling...it might have been over the top. I asked the R1 if he no longer yelled in such a manner if he could stay. R1 was okay with that. I informed Coach Ahrabi-Fard of that and told him to have management inform Ali of his options. He chose to stay and was much better. I've run into him a few times after that and he was always respectful and friendly to me. Once the match was over, so were his complaints. A true competitor in that respect. I'm shocked he is now gone and the community has a big loss. I can't imagine yours. I trust he will always be in your hearts. God bless & may he keep you in his heart always.

Kevin Duggan

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Kevin Duggan - December 14, 2021 at 09:43 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ali Rahnavardi.



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December 14, 2021 at 07:06 AM

MA

“ *Me. Rahnavardi was always a great help for me. He helped me understand things I couldn't in some of my classes and always welcomed me in his room. He was one of my favorite teachers at East and he will very well missed by me. I hope that his family will keep these memories of their wonderful dad, husband, brother, uncle, and son* 🕊️❤️

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**Melody Adair** - December 13, 2021 at 10:47 PM