



Russ Smith

February 27, 2009

Russell L. Smith (1924-2009)

WATERLOO- Russell L. Smith, 84, of Friendship Village Lakeview Lodge, died Wednesday, February 25, at Covenant Medical Center.

He was born June 14, 1924 in Waterloo, the son of Horace L. and Bernice A. (Adams) Smith. He married Audrey A. Schmidt on June 18, 1950 in Cedar Falls.

Mr. Smith graduated from Waterloo East High School, and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in physical education and social science from Iowa State Teachers College. He taught and coached at high schools in Orange Township and New Hartford. While obtaining his degree, he began working for the Courier, retiring in 1990 as Sports Editor, after 47 years with the paper. He was past moderator of Sports of Sorts, and authored the book, Dan Gable, the Wrestler. He was inducted into the East High Hall of Fame, UNI Athletics Hall of Fame, Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame, National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Kinnick Stadium Press Box Hall of Fame, and was the first recipient of the Dellinger Award as top wrestling writer.

Survivors include his wife, Audrey of Waterloo; three sons, Brandt (Verda) Smith of Oskaloosa, Wynn (Lyn) Smith of Hudson, and Skip (Shelly) Smith of

Evansdale; three daughters, Ruselle (Anthony) DeBonis of Waterloo, Bonnie (Robert) Butz of Waterloo, and Alysa (Gary) Behrens of Hudson; fifteen grandchildren; ten step grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

Preceded in death by his parents and aunt, Bernita.

Services will be held 12 p.m. Saturday, at First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls, through the auspices of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Waterloo, with burial in Fairview Cemetery, Waterloo. Friends may call from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday at Richardson Funeral Home. Visitation also for one hour prior to services Saturday at the church.

Tribute Wall



“ Please pass along to the family of Russ Smith my condolences on their and the Waterloo communities loss. I met Russ a couple of times while playing basketball for East Waterloo High School back in 1958-1960. Although I was a regular player on the team, I was neither an outstanding player or scorer, but Russ always had the decency to write his columns as though each player was a critical part of every victory. That quality impressed me greatly and throughout my personal career I used Russ's example in taking the time to insure those working for me and around me understood my appreciation for their personal worth, sacrifices and performance. We all will remember Russ and the quiet impact that he had on our lives.

Sincerely,

Dennis D. Foggy

Colonel, US Army (Ret)

191 Foggy Lane

Monticello, FL 32344

February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ May god welcome Russ with open arms. I was raised a few blocks away from Russ on Walker street.He would always ask me about my father Jack ,then tell me stories about the 1941 East high football team my father played on.He also followed me in sports.He will always be missed by all who knew him

February 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ To you all our thoughts and prayers go out to you all. Cherish all the memories you have, because he will live on through your memories. Take care.

February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Audrey & Family, especially my dear sister-in-law, Ruselle, My earliest childhood memories include your family at Grace United Methodist Church, where we met in the nursery there as young children. I always admired Russ and Audrey and your big, loving family! It was a joy to be able to spend time with you all. So across the miles, know I am thinking of you now, in your sweet sorrow as you remember your father, until you all meet again in the next life. Know he is in God's Loving Arms!
Love~Laurie in Northern Maine

February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Always remember the good times and the good stories and know that Russ is in Heaven talking about sports and he is at peace.
May God bless you all,
Sally Priebe

February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ I considered myself very fortunate to have grown up in Waterloo where wrestling was important. One big reason it was important is because Russ Smith put the sport front and center in the Courier. When Russ Smith wanted to talk to you it was a Big Deal because he was a Big Deal.

A fine man who you knew was sincerely interested in you as a person, as well as, an athlete.

My thoughts and prayers to the family.

February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry to hear about Russ passing. Praying that your most fondest memories will see you through this hard time and keep you through the years to come. God Bless

February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ Rus, Tony -- our prayers will be with you and Russ' family. I'm one individual who's life path was undeniably influenced by Russ in ways that I'm sure he never imagined He dropped a pebble into my life and the ripples continue to radiate to this day.

Nick De Bonis & family

February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Alysa, I was so sorry to hear of your loss. I have so many good memories of visits to the Smith house when growing up in Waterloo and know that you and your family have many wonderful memories to help during this time. My thoughts and prayers are with you and all your family.*

Shelly (Neith) Clyde

February 27, 2009 at 12:00 AM



“ *Ruselle,
Many years ago, your family and especially you were very dear friends of mine, and it is a friendship that I cherish deeply. Yesterday, Charlie Laipple, who introduced us, informed me of the unfortunate loss of your father. I grieve for you and your family and wish you only the best. Please know that your father was loved so dearly, and the angels will be glad to have his laughter and smile with them in heaven.*

February 26, 2009 at 12:00 AM