James (Jim) Edward Francis

JUNE 30, 2022

Beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, friend, trainer, mentor, joke teller, prankster, spinner of tall tales, charismatic life of the party, rule breaker, troublemaker, fighter, and highly allergic to anyone's bullshit - James (Jim) Edward Francis passed away peacefully on Thursday, June 30, 2022 at the age of 84 years. Jim was predeceased by his loving wife Sharen Francis. Left to cherish his memory are his daughter Wenda (Ken) Niels, son Dev (Glenda) Francis, grandchildren James, Kayla and Amy (Steven) Eklund, Tanner and Megan Francis and his cherished great-grandchildren Brooklyn, Tessa, and Hailee.

Jim was born in Tuxford, Saskatchewan on December 23, 1937 and was the eldest of three children followed by sister Marj and his brother Glen born to Lawrence and Lyla Francis. Dad had many stops in life but landed in Regina where he had many jobs and retired as a heavy equipment operator with the City of Regina.

Dad was active in the Regina sports community, volunteering as an athletic trainer with many sports and teams including: the Saskatchewan Roughriders, the Jr. Regina Rams, the Silver Foxes, the Regina Caps, the Pat Blues and with the annual Luther Invitational Tournament to name a few. Dad made an impression on players and coaches alike, with many still sharing stories of his impact and sense of humour on and off the field.

Dad stood on the side lines for hours scanning the game, quick to act and always with wise advice on the play, the game and life. Dad received awards for his volunteer efforts, but if you asked him, he enjoyed connecting with young people and took pride in making a difference in the safety of the game and lives of each player.

Many players and sport connections earned nicknames from Dad and if you got one, you knew he liked you. Some that stuck…Pole Cat - Bob Poley, The Dawg - Rodger Aldag, Mule Breath - Larry Mueller, the Oriental - Norm Fong, just to name a few. Dad had his own nicknames - players called him Fossil in the locker rooms and Sparky was another, earned while he worked with the City of Regina. Those that worked with Jim at the City will know the backstory on that one!

Mom and Dad loved to travel and met many friends along the way – one of their favorite places was Hawaii. After retirement, Mom and Dad spent many summers at the cabin in Missinipi in Northern Saskatchewan fishing on Otter Lake and the Churchill River. They loved to have visitors and Dad often volunteered as a fishing guide for avid fisherman from near and far. Dad travelled with his good friend Gerry Harris and a group of Luther College Students to Holland on a bike tour, where Dad acted as Gerry’s point-man, meeting the crew each night at their destination.

Jim touched the lives of all who knew him; he will be missed and fondly remembered. Dad, we know that you met Mom in Heaven and the two of you are now forever together. The family would like to send thanks to the staff at the Balcarres Integrated Care Centre, the Lumsden Heritage Home and Shalom, and the Cupar and District Long Term Care Home. Many of you made a difference for Jim over these last few years.

The family will host a Celebration of Life at a later date.

Messages of Condolence

Dear Family, we were saddened to read of Jim’s passing. He lived a rich life filled with family, friends and community. He really did it all didn’t he!
Cherish your great memories…..share them with each other, your children and grandchildren.Love Randy & Pat

— Randy & Pat Greenman

Sad to hear of Jim's passing, your right he made an impact on everyone's life, miss all the good times back in the day with your Dad and Mom! Sincere condolences to all the family, Treasure the Memories.
Carmen& Mark Anderson

— Carmen and Mark Anderson

Jim may be gone but he will never be forgotten. RIP myfriend,teammate & road trip roomie!

— Norm Fong

Our deepest condolences to Dev, Glenda, Tanner, Megan and Family. He will be missed, but his legacy lives on

— Darryl and Shelley Renner

Jim was so great with all the players and coaches on the Rams … I’ll never forget those years. Jim was not just our trainer but our mentor, I wanted to work at practice as hard as he did in his room taping us and advising us on many things … RIP Jim

— Randy Blue Labatte

I played on the Rams from 75 to 78. Fossil was one in a million! He was a fantastic trainer and always had a way of cutting through the bs, wicked sense of humour , Years later I had a night with Jim at a local brewery and all we talked about was fishing! I feel privileged to have known him. Rip Fossil.

— DaveHall

So sorry to hear of Jim’s passing- from cousin Gayle

— Gayle (Greenman) Nash

Jim will always be remembered for his gift of friendship and warm heart. You were always greeted with a smile knowing full well a great story was to follow. Rest In Peace Jim.

— Steve Mazurak

a very special man many great memories GOD BLESS

— rod merk

Sure sorry to hear about your Dad. Deepest Sympathies Dev and family

— patti

Our sympathies to the family, sharen was my cousin but in later years enjoyed running into Jim having coffee always had a chat

— Diane & Dick Heilman

Dear Dev & families
so sorry to learn of your Dad's passing. He was a man who lived life large ... always enjoyed his company over many a L.I.T. Will keep your family in our prayers
Take care, stay safe & God Bless
Bernie & Chris Flynn

— P.B. Flynn

We are so sorry to hear of your dads passing. He was one in a million. He took Randy under his wing when he played for the Regina Rams. The relationship didn't end there. He will have a special place in Randy's and my hearts. Our condolences to the whole family. Please let us know when the celebration if life is. Thank you
Hoss and Donna

— Donna Bradley

To Family;
Our condolences on Jim's passing. He made the bus rides at Luther seem much shorter when he travelled with you, and to get to the tournament city to find and have a few "Corona & Jacks" to relax. Never short of conversation or stories, one would only enjoy his company.

— Greg & Barb Willows

We are so sorry to hear of Jim’s passing. He was a big part of my early football years and continued as a good friend. I have been proud to carry the nickname PoleCat all these years later. RIP Fossil

— Bob and Elaine Poley

Jim was always a delightful spark whenever we had the pleasure of talking to him. Always a man with a story and a smile. To Dev, Glenda and family, so sorry for your loss.

— Caron & Roy Dueck

Jim was a special person in all respects. He was not just a trainer in the Rams locker room. He was a friend, mentor, and a true "teammate". Rest in Peace Fossil!

— Kevin Harle