



## Obituaries

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### Lawrence F. Harding

Died: Monday, November 05, 2007

Age: 71

Former Grosse Pointe Park resident Lawrence F. "Larry" Harding Jr., 71, died Monday, Nov. 5, 2007.

Mr. Harding was born in Syracuse, N.Y., Jan. 20, 1936, the oldest of four boys. His family moved to Detroit in 1941 where he discovered his passion for sports.

He attended Denby High School where he was captain of both the football and basketball teams. He was offered several football scholarships, but chose to play at Michigan State University. He received a scholarship there after the first term by proving he could attend school and play football. He was a member of the 1955 Rose Bowl winning squad.

Upon graduation in 1958, Mr. Harding was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams professional football team, but decided to play for Montreal in the Canadian League.

He spent 1959 and 1960 in the U.S. Army, returning to Michigan State in 1961 as an assistant freshman coach. He met a student, Kendra Van Sciever, who became his wife in 1963.

Mr. Harding began coaching at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., in 1962. In the early 1970s he left coaching to buy a furniture store in Nashville.

He returned to the Detroit area in 1975 setting up residence in Grosse Pointe Park. He worked in advertising sales at WXYZ radio and television, eventually becoming the local sales manager. While there, he was asked to help get a new network, ESPN, off and running. He did this for many years and then did the same for Discovery Communications. His work in the fledgling cable television business earned him the nickname of "King of Cable" from his associates.

He loved to golf and coached both baseball and basketball. He was a past president of the Grosse Pointe Park Little League.

Mr. Harding was a coach and teacher at heart and known for encouraging and mentoring neighborhood children. During his time in Tennessee and Grosse Pointe, he helped many children improve their social behavior and become responsible young adults.

He is survived by his wife, Kendra; sons J.T. and Lance; brothers Don (Clair) and Richard.

He was predeceased by his son, Lee, and his brother, Chuck.

A Celebration of Life memorial service was held Nov. 9 at Grosse Pointe Memorial Presbyterian Church, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Memorial contributions may be made to Seasons Hospice, 27355 John R Road, Suite 100, Madison Heights, MI 48071.

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