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Longtime Detroit sports media personality Jamie Samuelsen dies at 48

[Anthony Fenech](#), Detroit Free Press Published 9:48 p.m. ET Aug. 1, 2020 | Updated 9:36 a.m. ET Aug. 2, 2020

Jamie Samuelsen, a longtime voice on the Detroit sports media scene, died on Saturday after a lengthy battle with colon cancer. He was 48 years old.

Samuelsen was diagnosed with colon cancer 19 months ago but kept his condition private until last week.

He is survived by his wife, Christy McDonald, and three children, Caroline, 16; Josh, 14; and Catherine, 11.

Samuelsen spent nearly his entire professional career in the Detroit market, most recently on WXYT co-hosting the "Jamie and Stoney" morning show with Heather Park since 2016. Before that, Samuelsen spent time at WDFN, WRIF and WCSX on the radio, Fox 2 on television and wrote blog posts on Freep.com for over a decade.



Host Jamie Samuelsen speaks during the Detroit Free Press Sports Awards on May 18, 2018 at The Fillmore Detroit. (Photo: Junfu Han, Detroit Free Press)

One of Samuelsen's longtime cohorts on radio and television, Detroit News columnist Bob Wojnowski, announced Samuelsen's death on Twitter on Saturday night on behalf of the family. Wojnowski said Samuelsen was "surrounded by his wonderful family, and he went peacefully."

Heartbroken for Christy, his daughters and everyone who loved him.

— Paula Pasche (@paulapasche) [August 2, 2020](#)

(https://twitter.com/paulapasche/status/1289748504089247745?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)





Bob Wojnowski
@bobwojnowski



I am so sad and sorry to pass this along, at the family's request. Jamie Samuelsen, the best damn friend you could ever have, a tremendous broadcaster on @971theticketxyt passed away tonight at 48. He was surrounded by his wonderful family, and he went peacefully.

6:42 PM · Aug 1, 2020



6.5K



1.8K people are Tweeting about this

[Jamie Samuelsen shares colon cancer story with world: 'The outpouring has been really sweet']

(<https://www.freep.com/story/sports/2020/07/28/jamie-samuelsen-colon-cancer-detroit-sports-radio/5519818002/>)

Samuelsen informed his listening audience about his diagnosis on Monday and spoke to the Free Press about his diagnosis, saying he kept it quiet to protect his children.

"Obviously, all of our lives were turned upside down when we found out, but we wanted to make their lives as normal as possible," he said. "Plus, given the fact that I work in radio and my wife works in TV, I wanted to make sure it didn't affect their lives."

"The most emotional moments for me, throughout this entire thing, have been the reality of family," Samuelsen said.

Samuelsen grew up in northern California and began his career in Chicago in the mid-1990s after graduating from Northwestern.

As news of Samuelsen's death became public, his friends and colleagues in media expressed their sympathies and grief.



michael stone
@stoney16



I am heartbroken by the passing of my great longtime friend and radio partner Jamie Samuelsen. He was one of a kind. Smart, kind and had a great sense of humor. He battled this for over 19 months. I will miss him dearly. Love you always James K.

6:53 PM · Aug 1, 2020



3.4K



429 people are Tweeting about this



Bob Wojnowski
@bobwojnowski



You want to know how tough Jamie Samuelsen was? He was diagnosed with colon cancer 19 months ago, and he never got one damn break. He fought like hell and the cancer wouldn't let up. Not for one minute. But he never wanted people to know until the end. Incredible strength.

6:51 PM · Aug 1, 2020



2.9K



295 people are Tweeting about this



Bob Wojnowski
@bobwojnowski



2 - Jamie was all goodness and kindness, the sharpest wit and the greatest laugh. He did radio for 25 years in Detroit, and he kept adding friends along the way, as he built a fantastic reputation. He'll be forever missed and forever remembered.

6:45 PM · Aug 1, 2020



1.9K 157 people are Tweeting about this



Dave Birkett
@davebirkett



Damn. That's heartbreaking. Prayers to Jamie's family.

Bob Wojnowski @bobwojnowski

I am so sad and sorry to pass this along, at the family's request. Jamie Samuelsen, the best damn friend you could ever have, a tremendous broadcaster on @971theticketxyt passed away tonight at 48. He was surrounded by his wonderful family, and he went peacefully.

6:48 PM · Aug 1, 2020



182 See Dave Birkett's other Tweets



Vince_Ells56 ✓
@Vincent_Ellis56



Wow. Truly a nice guy. RIP.

Bob Wojnowski @bobwojnowski

I am so sad and sorry to pass this along, at the family's request. Jamie Samuelsen, the best damn friend you could ever have, a tremendous broadcaster on @971theticketxyt passed away tonight at 48. He was surrounded by his wonderful family, and he went peacefully.

6:54 PM · Aug 1, 2020



15 See Vince_Ells56's other Tweets



Chris Solari 
@chrissolari



Wow, just terrible news. Many thoughts and prayers for Jamie's family and friends.



Bob Wojnowski @bobwojnowski

I am so sad and sorry to pass this along, at the family's request. Jamie Samuelsen, the best damn friend you could ever have, a tremendous broadcaster on @971theticketxyt passed away tonight at 48. He was surrounded by his wonderful family, and he went peacefully.

6:55 PM · Aug 1, 2020



58



See Chris Solari's other Tweets



Jeff Seidel 
@seideljeff



Such a sad day for the entire Detroit sports community. Prayers to his family and the 97.1 The Ticket family.



michael stone @stoney16

I am heartbroken by the passing of my great longtime friend and radio partner Jamie Samuelsen. He was one of a kind. Smart, kind and had a great sense of humor. He battled this for over 19 months. I will miss him dearly. Love you always James K.

7:06 PM · Aug 1, 2020



7



See Jeff Seidel's other Tweets



Mark Champion
@nbamark



Devastating to hear of Jamie's passing. Praying for God's comfort for his family

7:08 PM · Aug 1, 2020



150



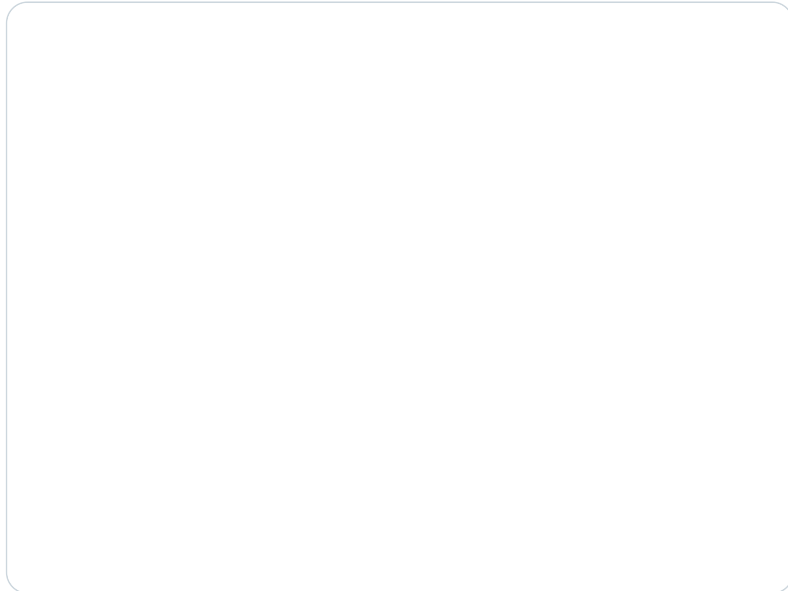
See Mark Champion's other Tweets



Dan Miller 
@DanMillerFox2





There's no words that fit right now. I'm thankful for the times we shared. I'm heartbroken that there won't be any more. Rest in Peace my friend. Bless your family. We will wrap our arms around them.



7:03 PM · Aug 1, 2020



 1.9K  197 people are Tweeting about this



Khang
@KhangSports





Jamie was the absolute best. I'm gonna miss him so so much. Rest In Peace Jamie. Love ya man.

 **97.1 The Ticket:**  @971theticketxyt
Jamie Samuelsen Passes Away At Age Of 48
971theticket.radio.com/articles/jamie...

7:18 PM · Aug 1, 2020



 185  See Khang's other Tweets




John Niyo 
@JohnNiyo



I'm off the grid for a while here, but just wanted to say Jamie Samuelsen was the best of us. My heart aches for his family and all those who knew what a truly good man he was. Hug your loved ones, be kind to others and cherish the time you have on this Earth. Love you, 22.

7:17 PM · Aug 1, 2020



 398  28 people are Tweeting about this