

Lance Wissmueller Tributes

Nobody was more passionate about hockey than Lance. As a player, fan, and most of all as a coach, Lance embodied all that is good about the game and even more so what is great about the human spirit. The past three and a half years saw Lance endure the discomfort of cancer treatment that weakened his body but never his courage. Friday treatments caused him to miss practice, but he never once missed a Saturday game even when he should have been home resting. There were occasions when he barely had the strength to stand behind the bench, but he persevered and was not only able to coach, but also offer commentary on a questionable call or a nice play. His sense of humor never flagged and some of his observations during games and practices would leave the girls (and me) laughing uncontrollably.

Lance has been the ultimate ambassador for girls' high school hockey. He served as president of the MMGSHL (Michigan Metro Girls HS Hockey League) on two separate occasions in addition to his head coach responsibilities at Cranbrook-Kingswood. A fine listener with consummate compromising skills, Lance guided the league from its infancy to where it is now with thirteen teams. Lance's knowledge and love of the game earned him the respect of countless people in the Metro Detroit hockey community and his leadership will be sorely missed.

Courage comes in many forms, yet I've never met anyone as courageous as Lance. Given six months to leave, he battled cancer for three plus years. Just a few weeks ago we talked about the upcoming season and Lance's excitement was evident despite the noticeable weakness in his voice. At home under hospice care, he called and left a message a few days ago wanting to talk about our preseason meeting. He cared deeply about his players and I know they have the utmost respect and love for their coach. Our lives are better because of Lance and his legacy will live on in all who were fortunate enough to know him. He was a fine man and he will be missed.

Mike Roche (former assistant coach and now the head coach)

Mentor, leader, friend and COACH, the capitals are used to attempt to express how much Lance cared about his CK ice hockey team. He scheduled his treatments around the season and took great and very justified pride in the individual and team accomplishments. Those of us who looked first at Lance when the overtime goal crossed the goal line in the state final last March, saw a smile a mile wide, sense of YES we HAVE done it, and an almost immediate hug with his fellow coaches, and then of course, he went right to the team to share in their well-earned joy. It is memory that I will always remember of a man who loved the team and the game.

Jeffrey Vennell

The Free Press wrote the following:

LANCE WISSMUELLER

"LANCE" Age 35 of Wixom formerly of Jackson, died October 18, 2005. Beloved husband of Monica. Loving father of Avery. Dear son of Doug and Barb Wissmueller of Jackson. Brother of Scott (Sara) Wissmueller of California. Grandson of Elsie M. Lefere and Maurine E. Wissmueller. Also numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Lance was a graduate of Lumen Christi High School and Michigan State University. Lance worked for Bright Horizons Family Service and Learning Center as an Educational Coordinator. Apart from his love of family, his second love was coaching the Cranbrook-Kingswood Girls Ice Hockey Team from 1996-2005 where he coached them to 3 state titles. Funeral Mass from St. William Catholic Church, Walled Lake, Friday 10:30 a.m. (in state 10 a.m.). Friends may visit Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 340 North Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake (3 Blocks South of Maple Rd.) Thursday 4-9 p.m. (Vigil 7 p.m.) Memorials to the family for an educational trust fund for his daughter appreciated.