



Donald J. Matuszak

September 4, 1936 - January 28, 2023

Donald J. Matuszak passed away on Saturday, January 28th, surrounded by his family. Don was born in Cicero, IL on September 4, 1936 to Alexander and Florence Matuszak. Don was a graduate of Kansas State University, where he met the love of his life, Mary Helen Eaton. During his college years, he captained the basketball team to number one in the country. Tex Winter coached the KState team, and Don played with great athletes including Oscar Robertson, Wally Frank, Wilt Chamberlain and his best friend, Bob Boozer. He later served on the Alumni Board of the university. Don was inducted into the Illinois Hall of Fame for his outstanding achievements on the court.

Don was employed by IBM in management, and won numerous awards and accolades for his achievements, including outstanding Branch Manager for the western US, and was one of six Branch Managers selected to speak at National Sales Rallies.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Mel, and daughter, Jill Swain. He leaves behind his brother, Ed (Karen) Matuszak, his sister Judy (Steve)Lindberg, daughter Joelyn(Jim) Shea, five grandchildren, and their respective families.

Don was a man of great character, had a wonderful sense of humor, and was a masterful story teller. He will be sorely missed by everyone who had the pleasure of meeting him. He had a way of drawing people together, and never met a stranger. His family would ask that you gather with friends, share your favorite memories, laugh, and toast a very accomplished and captivating man.

Contributions in Don's name can be made to the basketball program at Kansas State University.

<https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/23084/donations/new>

Tribute Wall

SL

“ I did not get a chance to know Don well because we lived so far apart. However, Judy and I made sure we visited with Don and his family whenever we were in the SE.

Everyone knows that Don was a great story teller. With a good deal of humor and a few chuckles in the telling, none of the stories were boring. I was amazed at the detail of people and their lives that he recalled. I suspect that in addition to be good at telling stories, he was also a very good listener. He was a people person.

We will miss you Don. RIP. Steve Lindberg

Steve Lindberg - February 07, 2023 at 03:02 PM

JL

“ Many years ago, I saw a picture of my big brother with many many hats piled on his head. I wish I could locate that picture. Perhaps that was the beginning of his being a jokester. I renewed a very rewarding friendship with Don. In the last several months, he started using my childhood name-Bub. Always an “I love you Bub”.

I love you Bro. Don & will miss you & our conversations.

Judy Lindberg

Judy Lindberg - February 04, 2023 at 04:51 PM

JK

“ I was shocked to hear of Don's passing, and I am sending our thoughts and prayers to his family.

I had the opportunity and privilege to work with and for Don during the business portion of Don's life and career at IBM. Other than being one of the greatest persons to ever know, 2 things stand out about Don in my mind.

#1. He was a great motivator of people, especially as it relates to marketing and dealing with customers.

#2. I learned of Don's great basketball ability as a player in high school, in College at Kansas State and then with Phillips, but I didn't hear about it from him, in fact I never heard him talk about his playing career.

Again, our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

Jack Kirby

Jack Kirby - February 02, 2023 at 05:04 PM

EM

“ *The passing of my brother Don was shocking and sad. It brought back many memories of our earliest brotherly competitions such as:*

- 1. Baseball in the backyard using a small souvenir bat and a ping pong ball.*
- 2. Basketball in the basement using a rolled up sock, the basket was an area above the water pipes and between the floor joists.*
- 3. Handball on the front sidewalk.*
- 4. "Hit against" off the front steps.*
- 5. "Swift pitch" on the grade school playground.*

And of course our beloved 16 inch softball, unique to the Chicago area which led to an article by Mike Royko titled "No game for softies" since it is played without gloves.

NOTE: There is actually a 16 inch softball museum in Chicago.

We must also recognize his fantastic K-State experience which was the start of a very successful career and wonderful family.

We miss you brother. RIP

ED

Ed Matuszak - February 01, 2023 at 09:55 AM

LL

*Ed, so sorry for your lose. Our condolences to all your family my friend.
Lance and Cynde*

Lance Long - February 02, 2023 at 09:03 AM

CP

“ In 1958 I was a 9-year-old Topekan. We did not yet have one of those new-fangled transistor radios but I had a little toy crystal radio that could receive the local radio stations. I fondly recall lying in bed listening to Dev Nelson's calls of Don Matuszak, Bob Boozer, Cedric Price, Wally Frank and Steve Douglas as I drifted off to sleep. Memories that last a lifetime. RIP Don.

Craig Price - January 31, 2023 at 11:34 AM

BS

“ I was the SID at Kansas State and then the sports editor of the Manhattan Mercry when Don played basketball at K-State. I loved his stoires about high school days and his early days at K-State. Joe Henderson, who passed away not long ago, laughed telling his stoires of Don. Joe was a big-time fan of Don. I tried to stay up woth Don after he left K-State. He was quite successful at Phillips, I know, in basketball and in business. One of the good guys.
--Bob Sands

Bob Sands - January 31, 2023 at 04:18 AM

GT

“ Don Matuszak Family,
I played against Don while attending Iowa State and then played with Don as members of the Phillips 66ers Amateur team. We want to express our Deepest Sympathy.
Gary and Janet Thompson
Ames, Iowa

Gary Thompson - January 30, 2023 at 05:46 PM

JS

“ *The thing I remember most about Don was what a real spark plug he was on our team. He always gave 100% of his effort to win. A great guy.*

*John Stone
1958 Student Manager
Kansas State*

John Stone - January 30, 2023 at 03:30 PM

RR

None ever like him. I feel blessed to have known he and Mel. Roberta Wray Ryan

Roberta Wray Ryan - February 02, 2023 at 06:50 PM

LW

“ *To the Matuszak family:
There are many funny stories about Don. During December of 1956, Don joined his teammates when they played in the inaugural game in Lubbock Texas to initiate the opening of Texas Tech's new basketball facility. Coach Tex Winter took the team on a sight seeing trip to prairie dog village where they saw 200 prairie dogs. Matuszak said, "Coach we have these things all over Chicago, but we call them sewer rats." Don was called "Rat" by his teammates the rest of his career at K-State. Please accept my deepest sympathy.*

*Larry Weigel, Editor
Triangulate News (A blog for many former K-State basketball players, alumni and friends numbering about 700 Households)
Don's obituary was sent to the group today so others can comment on this site.*

Larry Weigel - January 30, 2023 at 02:50 PM

BS

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Don and interviewing him for our History of K-State MBB: Tradition of Champions DVD project a number of years ago. While we only visited for an hour, I loved every minute of our time together and had tears in my eyes laughing as he ribbed Bob Boozer (who was there with us). I got a brief glimpse into what the locker room must have been like on those tremendous teams in the late 50s. A true character and he will be forever remembered by the K-State family.

Brian Smoller - January 30, 2023 at 02:13 PM

GM

Great guy & player! Played w/his brother Eddie! Both great people & players!

Gary Marriott - January 30, 2023 at 03:37 PM

MS

I was a student when he played. Waited in line to get a ticket for the games. Loved watching the great players and never missed a game. Thanks for the great memories you gave us students. Mil Sanderson '60

Mil Sanderson - January 30, 2023 at 07:39 PM

GA

Didn't know Don personally, but had the pleasure of watching him and his great Wildcat teammates play in Ahearn Field House many times during those great years of KSU basketball. Sure he's looking down from above and taking pleasure in our current Wildcat team's success.

Gary Vacin, Sun Lakes, Arizona - January 30, 2023 at 09:37 PM



Ed,(and the Matuszak family) so sorry hear of your loss and K-State's loss. Heard many stories of your brother,etal during my days of riding the pine at KSU. May he rest in peace with the Lord. Jim Hoffmann #30 KSU '66

Jim Hoffmann - February 02, 2023 at 08:54 PM