

Bud Swartout

Bud Swartout passed away Monday, November 20, 2017. He was 90 years old.

Bud was born in Galesburg, Illinois on October 28, 1927 the son of Harlow (Jerry) Swartout Sr. and Florence (Hawkins) Swartout. He graduated from Galesburg High School and went on to attend Drake University before serving in the US Army during WWII. Upon his return he earned his degree and master's degree from Illinois State University. He married JoAnn Sterling in 1951 and began his teaching and coaching career in Fisher, Illinois eventually moving to Woodstock, where he taught and coached until his retirement in 1993.

Bud was preceded in death by his twin sisters, Bea Gresty and Betty Larsen, his sister Carolyn Sandstrom, his wife JoAnn and his parents.

Bud is survived by his children Jerry (Elaine) Swartout of Hamilton, Montana and Nancy (Bernie) Lawson of Geneseo, Illinois. He was the proud grandfather of 7 grandchildren, Luke (Tori) Swartout and Ben Swartout, Missoula, Montana, Aaron (Janelle) Lawson, Rock Island, Illinois, Kendra (Hector) Escobedo, Glendora California, Sarah (Paul) Lams and Rachel Lawson of Geneseo, Illinois, and Ethan Lawson, Breckenridge, Colorado. Also- two great grandchildren Amanda and Damien Escobedo.

A gathering to celebrate Bud's life will be held in the commons of Woodstock High School December 2nd from 1-4pm with a chance to share a special memory of Bud at 2pm. Enter through the west door (number 11). A private burial is scheduled for a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Bud Swartout Scholarship fund, which honors a Blue Streak student/athlete each year. Memorials can be mailed to: District 200 Education Foundation , Attn: treasurer, P.O. Box 172, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

Remembrance of Bud from Facebook follows below.

Bud Swartout remembered for passion as teacher, coach at Woodstock

By ALEX KANTECKI [Email Follow](#)

11:10 pm

Harlow "Bud" Swartout taught biology and coached football and track at Woodstock High School throughout four decades. The number of students and athletes he influenced and reached are in the thousands and span generations.



[Matthew Apgar]

Swartout – better known as "Bio Bud" to his students, friends and colleagues at Woodstock – died Monday night at Clarissa C. Cook Hospice House in Bettendorf, Iowa. Swartout was 90. He started teaching and coaching at Woodstock in 1954.

When he retired in 1991, Swartout stuck around the Blue Streaks, volunteering any way he could. That included being the volunteer scorekeeper for more than 50 years at almost every wrestling match at Woodstock.

He lined the football field when it needed lining, and he even volunteered as a trainer when the school couldn't provide one on long trips. Anything to help the Streaks.

He continued coaching past retirement, serving as the offensive and defensive line coach. In all, he served as an assistant under five coaches. That included Bob Bradshaw on the Streaks' first state championship team in 1983.

Those at Woodstock will remember Swartout as a permanent fixture in Blue Streaks athletics, and for his high energy, competitive spirit, enthusiasm and kindness. Swartout put others first, and also was the first to volunteer his time.

Bradshaw once said of Swartout, "I think he has a little Blue Streaks blood in his veins." That's a sentiment shared by the many people Swartout encountered in more than 50 years at Woodstock.

"You're not going to find a better guy than Bud Swartout," said Doug Smith, who served as the Woodstock athletic director from 1989 to 2003.

"It was never about him. It was always about the kids. That was sort of his mantra. Bud was in it for the kids, and that's the sign of a true educator. Whether it was in the classroom or on the field, he was there for the kids and did everything the right way."

Steve Beard, Woodstock's football coach from 2003 to 2014, had Swartout as a teacher and coach. He remembers Swartout for his passion in the classroom and on the football field.

"It was almost superhero-like how much energy and pride and work he put into his job," Beard said. "He had an ability to make things better just because his name was attached to it. When he retired, he said, 'How can I help the Blue Streaks?' He set a standard for what I believe coaching and teaching is about.

"He had a real funness about him. He had a fun energy in the way he taught. One of his sayings in the classroom was, 'Bio is wow.' And ... you know what? Biology is wow. He made it that way."



[Matthew Apgar]

John Mason, who graduated from Woodstock in 1994 and now serves as an assistant football coach at Prairie Ridge, played for Swartout and remembers him as a player's coach, someone who really cared about each individual.

"He was always such a kind man, and he really did care about you," Mason said. "At the time, he was an older guy, so he definitely came from a different generation. He had a phrase he used to love to say.

"He would just yell at you, 'Throw them the bone,' with his gravelly voice. He would normally talk very soft spoken. But when he was trying to get you fired up, he'd yell at you. It meant take your forearm, and smash them old-school style. He always had such great energy and passion, and definitely the type of coach you felt really cared about you."

Mason's last team wasn't very good when he graduated, but that didn't affect Swartout's passion and dedication to the program. Mason said the lessons he learned from Swartout are something he still uses today.

"I don't think I was smart enough to understand the lessons I was learning from him at the time," Mason said. "The idea of caring about your players and doing what's right, focusing on doing it right every time. ... He ingrained that in me, and it was something I appreciated the older I got."