



## Gordon Brewer

April 17, 1924 - April 17, 2016

Gordon Brewer, 92, of Holland, passed away on Sunday, April 17, 2016. Gordon was born May 22, 1923, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to Robert and Helen (Gordon) Brewer. He grew up in Martin and graduated from Martin High School in 1941. Gordon attended Hope College for two years and then served three years in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII. Gordon re-enrolled at Hope College and met the love of his life, Lorraine Bult. In 1948, both Lorraine and Gordon graduated from Hope College as educators and were soon after married. Lorraine taught elementary school and Gordon taught high school. For eight years Gordon taught high school in Byron Center and Kelloggsville. In 1956, with a growing family, they moved to Holland, Michigan, where Gordon started to teach physical education, coach track, and eventually became athletic director at Hope College. Lorraine and Gordon became longtime members of Third Reformed Church. Gordon retired in 1988 from Hope College after 32 years of service. Gordon was preceded in death by his parents, his beloved wife of 67 years, Lorraine, on June 20, 2015, his sister Margery Van Reenan, and brother Paul Frederick Brewer. He is survived by children: Robert James Brewer of Prospect Heights, IL, Lawrence Gordon Brewer of Cincinnati, Daniel Richard Brewer (Donna) of Philadelphia, Susan Harrier (Thomas) of Zeeland; grandchildren: Kelsea Brewer, Jesse Lee Hayes, Joseph Monteith Hayes.

A service to honor the faith and life of Gordon Brewer will be held at 11:00 am, Friday, April 22, 2015 at Third Reformed Church, E. 13th Street, Holland,

49423. A time of visitation will be 5-8 pm, Thursday, April 21, at the Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th Street, Holland. Interment will be in Pilgrim Home Cemetery. Contributions may be made to Hospice of Holland or Third Reformed Church Memorial Fund.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gordon Brewer*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Gordon Brewer was coach when I was on the Hope College track team 1961-63. I still appreciate his encouragement and his recognition of my efforts. My sincerest condolences go out to his family."*

**Paul Wackerbarth** - May 14, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Dear Bob, Larry, Dan, and Susan, Please accept our heartfelt Christian sympathy on the loss of your father. We loved him, too. Coach Brewer epitomized the best attributes of Hope College: faith in God, love of family and friends, and enthusiasm for life itself. He touched the lives of literally thousands of people, and all to the good. Sincerely, The Geelhoeds: Bruce, Debby, Marc, Steven"*

**A friend** - April 25, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ *"Gord taught one of the first classes I took at Hope after transferring there from U-MD in the mid 1950s so our relationship dates from the memorable experience. He was a person who personified the very best of what Hope College is all about. A wonderful coach, mentor, historian of Hope athletics, and friend. I shall certainly miss our every so often cups of coffee and conversations about a great range of topics at Russ' in recent years...."*

**Warren Vander Hill** - April 22, 2016 at 12:00 AM

PC

“Please accept my condolences to the Gordon Brewer family. I was on the 1972, 1973 and 1975 Track Teams. The Track team was a large undertaking and Coach Brewer looked forward to every season and loved track. We were MIAA champions in 1972. On the humorous side, I remember he took me and Stuart Scholl to the state meet to run steeplechase one year. Steeplechase was not an MIAA event. In theory steeplechase is a distance event and we should have done well except for those hurdles and the water Coach Brewer hid his disappointment well. I will always remember Coach Brewer's enthusiasm for Track and Life.”

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**Phil Ceeley** - April 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM

ST

“I ran track under Coach Brewer's tutelage for four years (1965-1968). He coached with a smile and encouragement rather than a scowl and intimidation. When victorious in a hard fought half-mile, I am not sure who was happier, Coach or me! His enthusiasm was contagious and inspiring. When visiting Hope over twenty years after graduation I was surprised, impressed, and then humbled when he recognized me and called me by name! He knew and respected his athletes as they did him. RIP Gordie!”

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**Steve** - April 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JW

“Coach Brewer was one of the most positive and influential leaders during my time at Hope. I thoroughly enjoyed every minute with him.”

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**Jim Wildgen** - April 21, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JR

“Gordie Brewer was my track coach from 1957-1961 at Hope College. We always said we wanted to win for Coach Brewer. He was one person I always looked up to and listened to. A good man who lived a good life, to be sure. Rev. Jim Rozeboom”

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**Jim Rozeboom** - April 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CZ

“A very knowledgeable, but humble and dedicated man, Coach Brewer believed in me even when I wasn't sure I believed in myself. Now as an older adult myself, I have come to realize how much pain we young athletes caused our mentors. Yet, Coach never wavered in his faith in us...and in giving us brutal work-outs!!”

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**Conley Zomermaand** - April 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JL

“For when the One Great Scorer comes,  
To mark against your name,  
He writes -- not that you won or lost --,  
But how you played the game.” (Grantland Rice) Coach Brewer played the game with passion, enthusiasm and love for every member of the team. Thank you for being my coach for four years at Hope College. 34 years later, as an assistant track coach for pole vaulters at Hope College, I think of the Golden Brew, every day at the track. I hope that when the One Great Scorer puts a mark by name, it's the same mark as Coach Brewer's.”

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**Jon Lunderberg** - April 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM

ML

“Coach Brewer was my track coach at Hope. Out doing the field events, we didn't require constant supervision and he didn't give it. He was there for us if we needed something. We worked hard and had fun and he was supportive but not intrusive. He always had a smile for me. I enjoyed my time with him as coach and his tolerance of my lack of skill and talent. He was a valued part of my education.”

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**Marnie Lamberson** - April 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JP

“Coach Brewer was a motivator and leader of young men - at the college and on afterwards in their lives. For me he was a mentor and became a friend. I was so looking forward to seeing him next week at our 50th class reunion. He will rest in peace with memories which we all wish we could have. Thank you, coach.”

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**James Pierpont** - April 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM

DR

“Gordie was my track coach at Hope. He was an honorable man, a wonderful coach, a true educator. He didn't just build athletes but rather a formed men. He will be greatly missed.”

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**Dr** - April 19, 2016 at 12:00 AM