



William "Bill" Dodd

May 26, 1942 - January 7, 2025

It is with great sadness that the family of William Dodd announce his passing. Bill finally found an opponent he could not run over, run around, outwit or out strategize. He passed away on January 7th, 2025. Born on May 26th, 1942, to Albert and Marie Dodd, he was raised in Virden by his mother and stepfather, Ernest Logan, following Albert's untimely death in WWII. For 82 years Bill lived a life filled with earnest hard work, tremendous passion and service towards others.

During Bill's early years you would have found him roaming the streets of Virden with his best friend and "partner in crime", his brother Bob. The two were inseparable and full of mischief. They never missed a chance to play in a quick pick-up game of any sport, an adventure at the tank or to devour any fresh baked item their mother made. Bill excelled in many sports, as evident by his numerous athletic awards and achievements, but football was his favorite. It was his greatness on the football field for the Virden High Bulldogs that earned him a football scholarship to the University of Michigan, and his relentless pursuit down the halls of Virden High School that captured the heart of his future wife, Gretchen.

After graduating from the University of Michigan in 1964 with a degree in mathematics, Bill continued on at U of M as a Grad Assistant where he earned his Masters in Education in 1965. Bill taught and coached one year at

West Leyden High School in the Chicago suburbs. He then returned to the University of Michigan to coach football for two years (1966-1968) before heading to the University of Idaho (1969) and Southern Illinois University (1970-1977). His coaching was not just about winning games, but about building character and inspiring others to achieve their personal best.

In 1977 Bill traded in his college coaching whistle and playbook for a home office and more time with his family by accepting a sales position for Levi Strauss & Co. in Kentwood, Michigan. Unable to completely leave coaching behind, his focus turned towards his daughters and their athletic endeavors, leading the Levi Barnstormers to several softball league titles and spending countless hours teaching his girls the correct way to shoot a lay-up, when to throw a changeup, and how to lay down a bunt. After his daughters graduated from college, Bill spent his final 5 years with Levi Strauss in Dallas. In 1998 Bill retired and returned to his “Mayberry”, Virden, where he became an honorary farmer and city councilman.

Bill will be remembered for his faith in God, unflinching work ethic, inexhaustible grit, bottomless generosity and an attentive ear. He was wise beyond his education, and people of all ages and stations in life sought his advice and benefited from his counsel. As a loving husband he was loyal, devoted and prioritized Gretchen’s care. As a father he was involved, a stern disciplinarian and set high expectations, but was also encouraging and always their biggest fan. As grandparents, Dodo & Momo (Bill & Gretchen) will always be the keepers of the greatest vacation spot in the world, Cozy Creek Farm, where their grandchildren’s imaginations blossomed, and their days were filled with adventure, laughter and love.

Bill’s legacy lives on in the many athletes, co-workers, friends and family

members lives he touched. And always remember....GO BLUE!

Preceded in death by his parents, Albert Dodd, Edith Marie Logan and Ernest Logan and brother, Robert Dodd.

Survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Gretchen; his two treasured daughters, Amanda (Bill) MacDonald and Karol (Todd) Reeves; his 6 prized grandchildren, Hayley (Zac) VanBeek, Emma Reeves, Evan (Bri Koehn) MacDonald, Jackson (Laura) Reeves, Hope (Spencer) DeGraaf, and William "Bo" Reeves; and 2 precious great grandchildren, Palmer (Hayley and Zac) and Isla (Jackson and Laura). Bill is also survived by his cherished aunt, Pat Rutherford.

The family will remember Bill's life in a private ceremony in Virden, Illinois, at a later time. Donations can be made to the American Cancer Society or the Alzheimer's Association.

Memorial tributes and remembrances may be left for the family online at www.yntemafh.com

Tribute Wall

JF

“ *Prayerful condolences to the Dodd family. I owe Bill Dodd so much because he changed my lifes direction. He recruited me from Nokomis high school, he said you come to camp and how ever you do will determine if we put you on scholarship. No one was happier than myself and my parents when I was told after 3 days of camp I was put on full scholarship. Coach Dodd always had a kind word and a smile on his face with an encouraging word for you before practice. Not so much during practice. Thank you Coach Dodd and I look forward to a great reunion in heaven when I get there.*

John E Flowers - January 18, 2025 at 03:15 PM

VM

“ *I would like to give my sincerest sympathies and condolences to the Dodd Family! Coach Dodd and I met as I set foot onto the SIU campus August 1974! I was an incoming freshman running back and he was to be my coach!
I was no stranger to the "Dodd Specials" !
Coach and I butted heads many times, but he has a relentless affinity for all his kids to succeed!
As a Freshman, I got my chance when Coach Dodd put me in the kickoff return line up against Temple University and I scored on a 97 yard kick off return!
Thank you Coach Dodd for believing in me!
I do look forward to seeing you in the Heavenly Kingdom!*

Victor H Major - January 18, 2025 at 10:31 AM

CM

“ *Very, very sorry to hear about this news! What a great life he lived with great family around him! Prayers to all-*

Craig Mitchell

Craig Mitchell - January 18, 2025 at 08:43 AM



“ *My Sincere Condolences!!!
Coach Dodd was one of our hardest driving Coaches! The 🙌 Thing you can ask ANY of Coach Dodd's Players is "HOW DID YOU SURVIVE THE 'DODD SPECIAL' ?*



Bill Story - January 17, 2025 at 08:47 PM

BP

“ *Coach Dodd recruited me, met my parents, answered their questions and let them know their son would be in good hands at SIU. He didn't coach me directly as I was a receiver and Coach managed the running backs. Despite our loose connections he always supported me and at times made jokes about my lack of speed as a WR. He was quoted in the newspaper "they clocked me with a calendar" before he spoke very supportively. He was the best, in a time of reflection about the death of my wife, he provided a personal perspective that showed a special side that I experienced for the first time, it was a very special time. He will be missed !*

Bruce Puhr - January 17, 2025 at 08:25 PM

LH

So sorry to hear of the passing of Coach Dodd! I was fortunate to be coached by him from 1972 thru 1975, as I was a quarterback at SIU & minored in math. When Coach heard about me taking some upper level math classes, he got me a tutor. Unfortunately, the tutor was taking classes a year or two behind the level I was taking. Bill Dodd was a fine, principled man! I was very lucky to have him as our Offensive backfield coach, and I loved see him come down to Homecoming at Carbondale with brother Bob. Condolences to the family, and may he rest in peace!!

Leonard Hopkins - January 17, 2025 at 09:07 PM

JB

“ *When we moved back to Virden in 2009 Bill and Gretchin were our neighbors. That first winter we had a heavy snow and I looked out the window and there was Bill clearing our driveway with his snowblower. That’s the kind of neighbor he was, a great guy and great neighbor. We miss you Bill. Prayers to Gretchin and his family.*



Jody Bearden - January 17, 2025 at 08:24 PM