



Memories of John Barbose
November December 2006
A Message from CU President, Jane Morton Galetto

With the chill of fall upon us, we have once again lost a dear friend of the River. To so many people in our area John Barbose was simply known as Coach Barbose, having amassed a lifetime of achievements in athletic contributions. But for me he was a man who with his wife Mary Lou Barbose had acquired a lifetime of recollections on the shores of the Maurice River. He was concerned about the changing face of our area and wanted to know specifics about development projects when we spoke. He was especially concerned that too many large housing developments were being proposed for our region.

John was an ardent steward of the osprey nests that are visible from the Barbose property in Port Elizabeth. When I would call Mary Lou for her membership updates John would often answer the phone and inquire about the whereabouts of the osprey, their health, their migration, how many chicks were in the nests and so much more. When John's eyesight took a turn for the worse he would ask Mary Lou and me the status of the osprey nest across the river, and Mary Lou would say, "They're there, John," and his face would show great pleasure. Then I would have to give the full update.

He and Mary Lou shared a love of animals and took great pleasure in their dog Ginger. About six months before John left us Ginger passed away. Mary Lou told me he was heartbroken. I like to imagine that John and Ginger are sitting watching the River from some comfy spot in the hereafter and content with Mary Lou's newest soul mate, a golden retriever named Marla. John, we shall miss you and Ginger too!

Newspaper Obituary
John Barbose
Wednesday, October 4, 2006

BARBOSE, JOHN 89 - of Port Elizabeth, died Wednesday at the South Jersey Extended Care Facility in Bridgeton, after an extended illness. Coach Barbose was born in Luzerne, Pa. and moved to Millville in 1947. After high school, he attended Wyoming Prep

School, then Pennsylvania Military College. After two years in the Navy, Coach Barbose enrolled and graduated from Scranton University, then later received his masters degree from Temple University in education. In 1947, he was an assistant football coach and in '49 became Millville's head football coach. Beginning with the 5th game of the '52 season, his teams went on to win 31 straight, to set a South Jersey that lasted over 40 years. His record at Millville was 85-27-4. In '66, he became head coach at Pennsauken, with a record of 17-7-3 to finish with a career mark of: 102-34-7. A few of his many awards are: Special Sports Award for Football from the NJSIAA, Millville Sports Hall of Fame, SJ Coaches Association Hall of Fame, NJ State High School Coaches Hall of Fame, Millville Elks Old Time Athlete Award, SJ Chapter National Football Foundation Award, Coach of the Year from the Brooks Irvine Memorial Football Club, and 2005 received the President Gerald Ford All American High School Coach Award. Coach Barbose was a member of the National Football Foundation and the Millville Thunderbolt Club. He had developed personal relationships with many well known high school and college coaches, and has maintained lasting friendships with coaches, Tony Surace and Joe Paterno. An avid and gifted golfer, Mr. Barbose was a long time member of Wildwood Country Club. He also was a former member of the Maurice River Township Planning Board. Coach Barbose was not only known as a football coach, but as a man that cared for his students as well as his players, and for many, considered him a father figure. No matter what your problem was, you could always go to the coach for help and advice. His door was always open for all. Coach Barbose was a true Millville and South Jersey legend, and the lucky ones that were students or players during his tenure, truly benefited by knowing him. Thanks, Coach, for being there for us. Coach Barbose is survived by his wife: Mary Louise of Port Elizabeth and son: Anthony of Millville.

Funeral services will be held on Monday at 11 AM in the Rocap Shannon Memorial Funeral Home. Viewing will be held on Sunday from 4 - 9 PM and Monday from 9 to 11AM. Burial will follow in Greenwood Memorial Park. Memorial donations may be made to the John Barbose Scholarship Fund, c/o Millville Thunderbolt Club, PO Box 1513, Millville, NJ 08332. Written condolences may be sent to: rocapshannon@aol.com This obituary was originally published in The Press of Atlantic City.