



## Coach Max L. Bass

February 24, 1936 - January 22, 2022

Maxwell Lamar Bass, 85, of Newnan, passed away Saturday, January 22, 2022, at home, peacefully in his sleep. He was born February 24, 1936 in Opp, AL to the late Luther and Callie Bass. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers Loyal and Bobby.

Max grew up in Opp playing football, basketball, baseball and any other sport with a ball. His senior year in high school he was voted Mr. Opp High. He attended Gulf Coast Junior College and later Jacksonville State University where he earned his degree in Physical Education and History. He later attended the University of Southern Mississippi where he earned a master's degree in athletic administration.

Max met his wife Nancy at JSU. He was playing football and she was a marching ballerina with the Marching Southerners. It was love at first sight, almost. They were married in 1959 and enjoyed 62 years together.

Max's first head coaching job was at The Bolles School in Jacksonville, FL, which is where Max and Nancy's son, Vince, was born. The 3 moved to Newnan in 1966 and soon added daughter, Beth to the family.

Coach Bass was the Head Coach and Athletic Director at Newnan High School for 29 years. He was also very active in the community as a member of the Joshua Sunday School class and greeter at First Baptist Church. He was a member of the Optimist Club and tried hard to live by the Optimist Creed. He was co-founder of the Georgia chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the 1st president of the Georgia Athletic Association.

After his retirement in 1995, the newly built Newnan High Athletic Complex was named for him. He received the Georgia Athletics Directors Association Dwight Keith Award in 2000; was inducted into the Coweta County Sports Hall of Fame in 2003 and the GADA Hall of Fame in 2020.

His pastimes were fishing, gardening and just being outdoors. He loved his family, watching and talking football and bringing up politics for "lively discussion."

But above all Coach Max Bass found his greatest mission in the development and love for all the students and young people he either coached or encouraged. He passionately wanted everyone to be the best person they could be and rise above their situation and life challenges. He was an "influencer" of his time.

The funeral is Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 11:00am at First Baptist Church, 15 West Washington St. with Reverend Eric Walton officiating. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery in Newnan. Visitation is Tuesday evening, January 25th from 5 - 7pm at First Baptist Church in Newnan. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to the Georgia Chapter of FCA, NSH Athletic Department, or First Baptist Church of Newnan.

Condolences can be expressed online at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com). "Max Bass" stories can be emailed to [ericscottwalton@gmail.com](mailto:ericscottwalton@gmail.com)

Survivors include, Wife, Nancy, Son Vince (Laura) Bass, Daughter Beth (Eric) Walton of Newnan; unofficially adopted son Bobby Duffy; Sister, Pat Wood of Opp, AL; grandchildren Tripp Brown, Courtney Walton, Jon Walton, Callie Bass, Lauren Walton, Jessica Brown and Wallace Bass, all of Newnan; Sister-in-Law, Earline Bass of Ft. Walton Beach FL; nieces & nephew, Clay Bass, Wendy Jeffries, Chris Bass, Abbey Danford, Ashley Hall & Hunter Wood. Cousin Paul (Judy) Bass and their children Allison and Paul (Karen) Bass. McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

# Cemetery Details

## Oak Hill Cemetery

96 Jefferson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-3744

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Newnan  
15 West Washington Street  
Newnan, GA 30263

## Funeral Service

JAN **26**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Newnan  
15 West Washington Street  
Newnan, GA 30263

# Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Coach Max L. Bass*



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**McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory** - January 27, 2022 at 03:13 PM



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Coach Max L. Bass*



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**McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory** - January 25, 2022 at 12:08 PM



*Coach Bass was one of the best football minds I ever covered as a journalist. His legacy will live for many years.*

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**Stan Reese** - January 26, 2022 at 08:25 PM

RM

“ RIP Coach...You were the Man, the Legend, the Best...and you will be missed...I love ya Hoss 🙏❤️



Robin Barron Mann - January 26, 2022 at 12:11 AM

MY

“ Our prayers to Ms Nancy, Vince, Beth and Family. Coach was a remarkable man. So enjoyed our many talks through the years, our rides to the out of town ballgames and the stories. Oh how I will miss the visits and the stories. He was such an influence for so many. Love you and will miss you Coach. But as usual you were right, “Everyone Needs A Mule”! Retired Sheriff Mike and Bev Yeager Family

Mike&Bev Yeager - January 25, 2022 at 08:40 PM

LH

“ Coach Bass was such a part of my years at Newnan High. I never missed a football game from 1969 through 1973 since I marched in the band for 2 years, then cheered for 2 years. I also got to see him at FBC Newnan. He made a difference in so many lives. Prayers for the family, Linda Lyles Houghton

Linda Lyles Houghton - January 25, 2022 at 07:01 PM

TC

“ We will forever be grateful for the influence that Max had on our children's lives. Tommy and I send our thoughts and prayers for you Nancy, Vince, and Beth. We pray that he will comfort you at this time. Tommy and Sharlon Cobb

Tommy and Sharlon Cobb - January 25, 2022 at 04:52 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Coach Max L. Bass.



January 25, 2022 at 09:32 AM



“ Mark, Jeanne, Madison & Jordan Supena purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Coach Max L. Bass.



**Mark, Jeanne, Madison & Jordan Supena** - January 24, 2022 at 06:45 PM



“ Sincere condolences to the entire family. Max was a legend and the many stories will be told for a long time. His friendship and leadership touched so many. I am glad and honored to have known and worked with him.

**Dan Coleman** - January 24, 2022 at 06:40 PM



“ Max inspired many lives of our young people. Nancy our love & prayers go to you & your Family  
Sad at the death of loved one. Sweet the memories  
Play on “Hoss”

**RUBY Swords & Family** - January 24, 2022 at 03:54 PM

DT

“ Nancy, Vince, Beth, and your entire family, my sincere condolences to you all. Our prayers are with you. As we go through life God puts us with the right people, at the right time, for the right reasons. Hoss was one of those people for me. As a player for him, there were so many things I learned from him that had nothing to do with football but had everything to do with life. He provided great lessons in leadership before any of us really understood what it was all about. He truly cared about all of us. He constantly would tell us “you need to be hanging out with good people so you’ll stay out of trouble and be the best you can be on and off the field.” I could go on forever with stories and quotes but my absolute favorite quote was “Losers make excuses...Don’t be a loser.”

*Hoss – you made a great impact on so many people over the years and I’m proud to have been one of them. I have so many football memories and life lessons that will be with me forever. Thank you for that and rest in peace coach!*

*Doug Tidwell*

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Doug Tidwell - January 24, 2022 at 12:57 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Coach Max L. Bass.



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January 24, 2022 at 11:46 AM

GP

“ Words are so inadequate at a time such as this. Coach Bass meant so much to so many, including the Petty family. He was a good influence to so many young people that he was in contact with during his time of coaching football. He will be missed. Prays continue to be with his family

*Gerrie and Ray Petty*

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**Gerrie Petty** - January 24, 2022 at 11:38 AM

NC

“ Nancy Coleman lit a candle in memory of Coach Max L. Bass



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**Nancy Coleman** - January 24, 2022 at 09:18 AM

NC

“ My deceased son (Jerome Coleman) never had a coach that inspired him the way Coach Bass did with his positive attitude, discipline, and encouragement. What a Blessing Coach Bass was to my son and our family.

*I hope the Bass family finds peace and comfort knowing that Coach made a profound difference in the lives of all who knew him - especially his students!*

*Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers during your time of bereavement!*

*Nancy Coleman*

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**Nancy Coleman** - January 24, 2022 at 09:16 AM

JW

“ Nancy, Vince, Beth and family, the Worth family joins me in expressing our heartfelt sorrow in the passing of our longtime friend and coach. We all have very fond memories of Max that will keep him in our hearts for many years to come! All our love and prayers to all of you! Judi Worth

Judi Worth - January 23, 2022 at 05:30 PM

OJ

“Losers make excuses “ I’ll never forget that or any of the many life lessons you taught us. Rest comfortably my friend. I love you Hoss. Otis Jones

Otis Jones - January 23, 2022 at 06:47 PM

BS

“ We’ll miss you Hoss.

Billy Starnes - January 23, 2022 at 03:32 PM

JH

“ I’m sorry to hear about your loss praying for Family and friends during this difficult time.



Jamie Hixson - January 23, 2022 at 02:14 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Coach Max L. Bass.



January 23, 2022 at 01:14 PM

JM

“ *Max Bass was pioneer of sports in the State of Georgia. Max started the first wrestling program at Newnan in 1969. He ask me to be a part of that team. Because of Max, wrestling became a large part of my life. Recently I had the honor of being inducted into the national wrestling hall of fame.I began my speech talking about Max Bass. Not only was he an inspiration to me as an athlete, but through life in general. Thank you Max Bass for what you did for so many youth during your life.*

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**Jim Morgan** - January 23, 2022 at 09:30 AM

TS

“ *Coach Bass meant so much to so many, especially all of the young men who played football for him at Newnan High School. The life lessons he shared have stayed with all of us through our adult lives, like "Winners never quit and quitters never win", profound words to live by. The true legacy of Coach Bass lives on in all who benefited from knowing him and have passed on the values he taught.*

*Tim Shoemake*

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**Tim Shoemake** - January 23, 2022 at 08:47 AM



“ *Sue Caylor lit a candle in memory of Coach Max L. Bass*



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**Sue Caylor** - January 23, 2022 at 01:15 AM

FF

“ Thoughts and prayers are with the family,during this difficult time.



Francis Futral - January 23, 2022 at 01:13 AM

GP

“ Gaylene Yeager Pronevitch lit a candle in memory of Coach Max L. Bass



Gaylene Yeager Pronevitch - January 22, 2022 at 08:14 PM

GW

“ Max Bass has been a part of Newnan life for many, many years. I remember when he and Nancy moved to Newnan from Florida in the 1960's; however, we knew him before that when we were in college in Alabama. His contributions to Newnan and Newnan High are tremendous as he touched so many lives over the years. He will be missed. My heart felt condolences to Nancy and all the family members. My thoughts are with you. The sadness of losing so many of our “old timers” is immeasurable and seems to be happening every few weeks.



Geraldine Welch - January 22, 2022 at 06:14 PM

MS

*I'm so sorry!!! My thoughts and prayers are with all of the family and friends.*

Maryann Shelnutt - January 22, 2022 at 07:35 PM

KB

“ So sorry for your loss. My children benefited from the talent and knowledge of this great coach and the life lessons they learned while playing football under him. Hundreds of young men are whom they are today because of him. He leaves such a legacy for the City of Newnan, Coweta County, the State of Georgia and especially for his family. May God wrap his loved ones in his arms and give them peace and comfort during this time.

*God Bless!*

*Kathy Barnett and Family*

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**Kathy Barnett** - January 22, 2022 at 05:52 PM

DN

*Coach Bass was our neighbor growing up and he was a great neighbor and a great man. He will be missed! Denise Norred*

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**Denise Norred** - January 22, 2022 at 05:57 PM