# DeSales will dedicate sports facilities

DeSales High School will dedicate its new baseball building and Rex Robinson Memorial Field Saturday, Oct. 20, at the school, 425 Kenwood Drive. The ceremonies will begin at 11 a.m. in the parking lot adjacent to the new baseball building.

A light lunch and refreshments will be available in the building's Coach Room after the festivities.

Robinson, former athletic director and a teacher at DeSales for 35 years, lost his battle with brain cancer in 1995. He was a tackle on the University of Louisville football team for four years, and played on U of L's 1957 Sun Bowl team.

#### Flea market

The fourth-grade class at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School, 5505 New Cut Road, will hold a flea market Wednesday, Oct. 24, in the school gymnasium. Proceeds will be sent to the new program to help children in Afghanistan, announced Oct. 11 by President Bush. The flea

market will run from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and is part of "Make a Difference Day" at the school.

### St. X forum

St. Xavier High School, 1609
Poplar Level Road, will host
two informational forums for
eighth-grade students and
their parents Oct. 23 and Nov.
13. Both programs will be held
at 7 p.m. in the school's Driscoll
Auditorium. A panel of school
representatives will present a
brief program on St. X, with a
question-and-answer session to
follow.

The St. X Moms Club will provide refreshments following each forum.

#### DeSales scholar

Robbie C. Skaggs, a senior at DeSales High School, has been named a Commended Student by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than a million students who entered the 2002 National Merit Scholarship competition.

## Agriculture fair

Mother of Good Counsel Elementary School will hold it semi-annual Agriculture an Environment Fair from 12:3 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. Friday, Oc 26. The fair will feature studen exhibits, games, animals an live performances, and will be held in the school's side parkin lot.

If it rains, the fair will be moved into the cafeteria. For more information, call 425 2637.

## Dessert party

Holy Rosary Academy will host its 10th anniversary Dessert Card Party Wednesday, Oct. 24, at the school, 4801 Southside Drive. Doors open at 6 p.m. and play begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 and includes dessert, beverage and a goody bag. The public is invited and reservations are recommended. For additional information, call 361-8066.

#### Annie

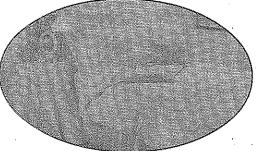
The Ursuline School for the Performing Arts will present "Annie," at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 19 and 20, at the Ursula Theatre, Building No. 5, on the Ursuline campus, 3105 Lexington Road. More than 35 girls, ages 7 to 14, will take part in the musical.

Tickets are \$3 for students and seniors, and \$5 for adults. For more information, call 897-1816.

#### Mixers

St. Bernard School, 7500 Tangelo Drive, will hold a mixer for junior high school students from 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20 at the school. Tickets are \$5 and appropriate dress is required.

# Bluegrass Bedding



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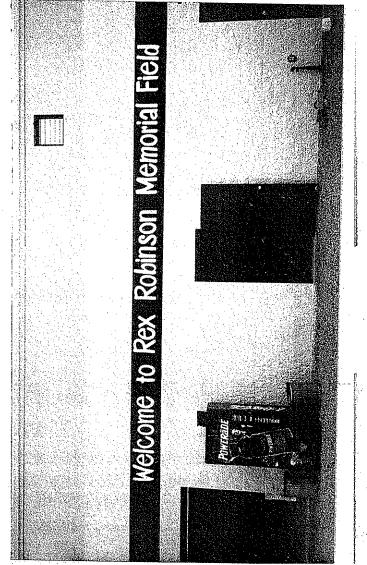
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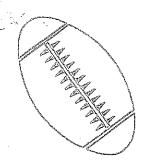


### REX ELMOND ROBINSON - Nov. 16, 1935 - July 17, 1995

### DeSales High School - 1960 - 1995

Asst. Football Coach DeSales High School – 1960 – 1968 Track Coach DeSales High School – 1962 Head Football Coach DeSales High School – 1969–1971 Athletic Director DeSales High School – 1971 – 1995

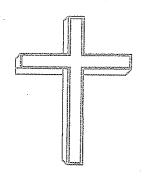
Life Membership KY High School Coaches Association
Member of the KY High School Athletic Association
Member of the KY High School Athletic Directors Association
Member of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
First Inductee into the DeSales High School Hall of Honors - 1992
Commissioned a Kentucky Colonel – 1972
Awarded Distinguished Citizen under Mayor Harvey I. Sloane – 1976
Dedication of Athletic Building and Field at DeSales High School - 2001



# Rest In Peace:

## Rex Robinson

1935-1995



By Jamie Finn

ex Robinson, a fixture around DeSales High School for the past 35 years, lost his 18month battle with cancer and died at his home on Monday, July 17.

Robinson's funeral was held in DeSales' Dodge Gymnasium. Hundreds of former students, colleagues, cheerleaders, players, coaches and friends gathered to honor a man simply known as "Coach."

In honor of his contributions, current members of the various sports teams wore their jerseys and formed an honor guard. Carmelite Fr. Kyrin Caggiano, current DeSales football coach Harold Joyce and Jim Watkins '63 all shared memories of Mr. Robinson. A common theme in describing perhaps the biggest Alabama fan in this part of the country was: his love for his family and for his second family -- DeSales High School.

Rex was described as a "big teddy bear who had a heart even bigger than his physcial size."

Perhaps a side of Rex that was seldom seen in public was his gentle and caring nature. "He was like a father to me," said Joe Gries '67.

A former athlete himself, Robinson came to Louisville in 1954 on a football scholarship he earned to the University of Louisville. He played tackle for Coach Frank Camp for four years and was on the school's 1957 Sun Bowl team.

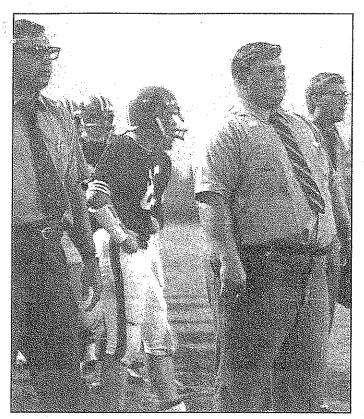
Rex, a native of Huntsville, Alabama, joined DeSales in 1960 as a teacher and assistant football coach. He was the Colts' head football coach for three seasons, beginning in 1969. In 1971 Robinson was named athletic director, a position he held until 1994. Despite his illness, he assisted in the athletic office and was a substitute teacher at DeSales until May.

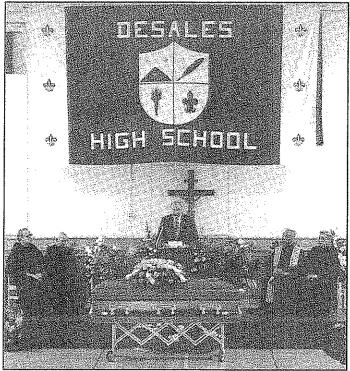
The stature of Robinson as a man was only overshadowed by the type of person he was. The DeSales Community as well as his wife, Pat, sons Ryan '77 and Clay, and daughters Cara and Dana, will miss him dearly.



Rex and Joe Gries at the 1995 Hall of Honors. Above, the '95 Colts honor Rex with a helmet insignia.







(Left) Robinson coaching in 1970 with Jim Watkins. Above, at the funeral, Watkins remembering Robinson.

## Robinson helped more than he ever knew

By Jeff Schneider

The big man walked uninhibited down the halls, a trail of sweet-smelling smoke usually following. His gait—a slow and steady lope—a menacing stare and that ever-present pipe, made Rex Elmond Robinson more myth than reality to the many freshmen entering DeSales on an annual basis.

Our brothers had painted the pictures: "Rex picked a freshman up by the ears!" Or, "I saw Rex bench press 500 pounds, I swear!" Each year the legend grew bigger and better. Mr. Robinson, as we trepidly called him, soon became a part of world history. He was a Viking, or even one of King Arthur's shining knights.

He intimidated many, including the author, in the early days before any kind of relationship could be struck. It was only natural. Here he was, a man who blocked the sun, and here we were, scared and unproven freshmen worried about making it through the day.

But then, as they say, you can't judge a book by its cover, especially in Rex Robinson's case. He was, and still is, a credit to himself, his family, his children and the school he dearly loved, DeSales.

The odd thing about it all was the fact that Mr. Robinson was more lamb than lion. If his hard stare was captivating, his smile and his laugh were even more so.

Like most who pass through the doors of DeSales, graduate and then move on to college or work, several years passed before Mr. Robinson reemerged in my life.

It was at a football game. He pulled into the stadium, he and his truck, one as big as the other. It was cold, and he was wearing an overcoat and one of those houndstooth hats Bear Bryant, his hero, made famous.

Even after my marriage, three kids, two cats and a dog I noticed Mr. Robinson still commanded respect from everyone who crossed his path. Nothing had changed, even after 15 years. The security guards, ushers and ticket-takers either waved, shook his hand or smiled in his direction. Moses couldn't have been more well received.

He never saw me. High above, I stared through binoculars and watched as that big ferocious man helped two tiny school girls hoist a heavy box onto a table. They thanked him, went on and I could see him say, "You're welcome, ladies." How nice, I thought. Trivial as it may seem, I wish some of you could have seen it. It reminded me of the old saying that a man is biggest when he stoops to help a child, in this case, two girls.

Now that I look back, it wasn't Mr. Robinson's strength at work there. No, it was his heart. And it always was, despite the fictional stories big brother told of him grabbing students by the knot of their ties and holding them from second-story windows.

There were two reasons God gave him that great size: he needed it to carry that great big heart, and also to put a little fear in those DeSales boys who sometimes got out of line.

Rest in peace, Mr. Robinson. Your presence helped us more than you ever knew.

## NOMINATION FORM DeSALES HALL OF HONORS INDUCTIONS

Nominee's Name:	MR. REX ROBINSON	
Check appropriate category:	☐ ALUMNUS	M FACULTY/STAFF
Nomination Support Data: State why you feel your nomined		



Mr. Rex Robinson has been a part of DeSales High School since 1960. He began his career as a teacher and coach, and in 1970, he assumed the duties of Athletic Director. His work in all three of these areas has changed the lives of countless students, but his strength and gentleness, his capacity for laughter and tears have helped to define the DeSales community for us all and for all time.

October 29, 2001

Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame ATTN: Nominations 2280 Executive Drive Lexington, KY 50505

### Dear Nominating Committee:

I would like to nominate my father, Rex Elmond Robinson for the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

He began his career as a teacher and coach at DeSales High School in Louisville, KY, August, 1960. In 1971 he assumed the Athletic Director's job and remained in that position until his death in July, 1995. He devoted 35 years of his life working with young people, and making his school a better place, for students and staff. During those years of service, he earned the respect, and trust from his students, teachers, coaches, administrators and the community he served.

Please consider Rex for this prestigious award for he is truly deserving of this honor.

Sincerely,

Clay M. Robinson