



## Don Overton

November 23, 1937 - November 21, 2013

Don Overton, often referred to as Coach "O" died peacefully at his home on Thursday November 21, 2013. He was born in Allen, Oklahoma on November 23, 1937. He graduated from McAlester High School in 1955. He went on to play basketball at Bacone Junior College in Muskogee, OK under his beloved brother, Claudell Overton. He later transferred to Southeastern State College in Durant, Oklahoma where he lettered in 3 sports and received various honors. After graduation, he coached at Sulphur Springs High School, Sulphur Springs, Texas and St. Thomas High School, Houston, Texas. He returned to Southeastern State College as assistant football coach and PE coach under the direction of Bob Thomas and where he received his master's in education. He then moved to Hugo, Oklahoma where he was head basketball coach and assistant football coach. While at Hugo, he was also on a traveling team that played against the Harlem Globetrotters. He went onto, Miami, OK, where he was also head basketball coach and assistant football coach. He left his beloved coaching in 1972, when he moved to Norman, Oklahoma where he resided for many years as a successful custom home builder and had many other business ventures. He later returned to Durant where he was given the opportunity to return to his one true calling and that was to coach basketball.

In his first year as head coach for the Durant Lions, he took Durant to their first state tournament in 24 years, narrowly missing the state championship game. During his coaching career, he won two state championships. He won

a state championship at St. Thomas high school and then took his Miami War Dogs to their only state championship in school history with a perfect 27-0 record. In 1972, he was named Oklahoma coach of the year by the Tulsa World and by the Oklahoma State Coaches association. He was a finalist for the Tulsa world coach of the year in 2006. Don also taught PE at Robert E Lee elementary and loved his time with the staff and kids there. He was always looking out for the underdog.

During the last two years, he volunteered as an assistant to the men's basketball team at Southeastern. He loved coaching and making his players better young men. His favorite pastime besides watching basketball was fishing. He recently told his daughter the best choice he ever made was when he and his then-wife, the former Judy Lemonds, made the decision to adopt their two children, Shelley Overton Allen and Mike Overton

Don was preceded in death by mother Cecil Hooper Overton Potts, sister Jo Doris Narrow, and brother Claudell Overton.

He is survived by daughter Shelley Allen and husband Chris, son Mike and wife Dana, grandchildren Blake Allen, Elise Allen, and Dylan Overton, all of Durant; sisters Maxine Waugh, Gainesville, Georgia, and Jerri Huddleston, Norman, and brother Bob Overton of Rockport, Texas.

A celebration of Don's life will be held at 10:00 am Monday, November 25, 2013 at Brown's Funeral Service Chapel with Pastor Tony Thomas officiating. Honorary pallbearers will be all of his former players and coaching friends, with whom he shared so many special times.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the Don Overton Fund at the Southeastern Foundation, 1405 N. Fourth, PMB 4187, Durant, Oklahoma 74701-0609.

Arrangements are under the direction of Brown's Funeral Service, Durant.

PDF Printable Version

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

NOV **25**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Brown's Funeral Service - Durant  
4900 West US Hwy 70  
Durant, OK 74701  
(580) 920-0393  
info@brownsfuneralservice.com  
<https://www.brownsfuneralservice.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Don Overton*

January 08, 2023 at 11:32 PM



“ *I am sad to know the one of my favorite classmates has passed. I went to the Prom with Don when we were Juniors at MHS...we both graduated in 1955. Don was a fun guy and I always liked being around him. I remember when he and I and the football boys were on the stage in an assembly. I had been given a gift and I started to open the box...I glanced at Don and he shook his head not for me to open it..he just made a quick nod..then I remembered they had said for me to wait until after the ceremony to open it I was excited and forgot ..He liked everyone and everyone liked him. He was a fantastic basketball player and football also..quite the athlete. I regret that I didn't get to see him over the years to visit. He was hardly ever in McAlester after those sweet high school days that I cherish so much. What a guy he was.....Anita Cole ps...our class will have a special brick placed in the Sidewalk of Memories at our old highschool in McAlester...It will have his Name and year he graduated...from our Class*

**Anita Hopkins** - November 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mike, So sorry about the loss of your father...I had the same experience earlier this year and I know how hard it is...Don was a good man and I know will be missed by all...May the Lord bless you and your family.*

**Roger Clark** - November 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ Coach Overton did not coach basketball from 1972 until 2006. That was 34 years, And, the game PLUS kids had changed a lot since then. No problem. In his first year back into coaching he took Durant to the state semi-finals where they lost to state champion Tulsa Central in triple OT. (And, Durant hadn't even been to state in 24 years). What made this special was that Coach was still running the ole 4 out and 1 in passing game as well as the Bloomer Sullivan delay game when he got the lead. And, of course his staple defense, man-to-man. What more can I say? The Man was born to coach basketball. The mark of a successful coach is to maximize his talent and for his players to compete precisely as they've been taught. Such was always the case for his teams, and Coach was at his best when He was in the underdog role. Coach was special to me in many ways. Foremost of all, his influence impacted me to become a basketball coach which I was for 28 years. (I retired from basketball in 2001, but still coach tennis at Byng, and this is my 41st year in education). Following his successful return to coaching, when his name came up I was always quick to comment that Coach Overton was MY coach. And, that's how He will always be remembered.....as MY COACH.

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**Alan (Allie) Simpson** - November 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ Dear Overton family, I am so sorry to hear of Don's passing. he was a good man. I am praying for all of you.

May God Bless you with his peace and the comfort only God can give.

Love to all of you in Christ Jesus,

Kyron

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**Kyron Wyatt** - November 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ *Coach Overton was a great example for me in high school. He taught hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship. He will be missed by all who had the honor of knowing him. From a member of the class of 1967. Hugo High School*

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**Larry Lee** - November 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM