

Paul Jay Sturdevant, age 63 of Perham, MN, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, March 30, 2025.

Paul was born in Breckenridge, MN, to Glen and Shirley (Thoresen) Sturdevant. He grew up in Wahpeton, ND, and graduated from Wahpeton High School in 1980. A talented athlete, he went on to become a three-year starting offensive lineman for the University of North Dakota Fighting Sioux football team. Paul later earned his Bachelor of Science in Special Education from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Beyond his own playing days, Paul found his true calling in coaching. His passion for the game and dedication to his players left a lasting impact on every team he led. In 2008, he made Perham his home, where he became a football coach, guiding young athletes with wisdom, patience, and an unwavering belief in their potential. In 2021 until 2024, he had the honor of coaching alongside his son, Hayden—a role he cherished deeply. Coaching was never a job for Paul; it was a lifelong passion.

Paul was more than a coach; he was a mentor, a teacher, and a steady presence in the lives of many. He poured his heart into every aspect of his life, from the gridiron to his family. His children, Hayden (born in 1995) and Ana (born in 1997), were his greatest pride. In 2023, he became a grandfather to his beloved granddaughter, Saylor, who brought him immeasurable joy. Whether on the sidelines or in everyday life, he was their biggest supporter, always encouraging, always believing in them.

Paul also had a special bond with his grand-dog, Indi. He found joy in taking Indi to the dog park, spoiling him with treats, and sharing quiet moments of companionship.

Paul's humor, compassion, and love for those around him will be remembered always. His impact will continue to be felt in the lives he shaped, the lessons he shared, and the memories he left behind.

He leaves behind his son, Hayden (Jaci) Sturdevant, his daughter, Ana Sturdevant, and her fiancé, Michael Nelson; his beloved granddaughter Saylor and his grand-dog, Indi. He also leaves behind his siblings, Sonia (Ryan) Sturdevant and Mike (Priscilla) Sturdevant, as well as many family members, dear friends, and the countless football players whose lives he impacted over the years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Glen and Shirley, and his sister, Becky.



Celebrating THE LIFE OF



Paul Jay Sturdevant

“Don’t tell me how rough the sea is,
just bring the ship in”



As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.

-2 Timothy 4:6-8

Memorial Service
Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.
Schoeneberger Funeral &
Cremation Service
Perham, Minnesota

Officiant
Chaplain McKay Ness

Readings
Psalm 23
2 Timothy 4:1-2, 7-8
Acts 16:31

Musical Selections
“On Eagle’s Wings”
“Knocking on Heaven’s Door”
“Amazing Grace”

