

## Dennis Kaatz

November 30, 1946 - May 8, 2015

The funeral service for Dennis Ray Kaatz will be held at 11:00a.m. on Friday, May 15, 2015 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena with Pastor Nate Loer and Pastor Paul Trenne officiating. Friends may call at the Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena on Thursday 4:00p.m. - 8:00p.m. and at the church on Friday from 9:30a.m. until the time of service. At the age of 68, Dennis of Kenmare, ND, died May 8, 2015 in Minot, ND, after a long battle with cancer.

Dennis was born in Enderlin, ND to Ray and Em (Erbstoesser) Kaatz on November 30, 1946. He grew up on his family farm and played football, baseball, and wrestled for Enderlin High School. He went to college at Moorhead State and graduated in 1969. He became a Social Studies teacher in Wadena, MN, where he began his career as educator and coach. He coached many levels of baseball and wrestling in the community and was a football referee for many years across the region. He worked for 35 years at Wadena-Deer Creek HS, developing winning baseball and wrestling programs, and retired in 2004. He was recognized by the state of Minnesota with inductions into the Baseball and Wrestling Halls of Fame. He didn't stay retired for long and became the assistant coach for the Concordia College wrestling program in Moorhead, MN for five years. He moved west to Kenmare, ND, and helped with the Kenmare HS wrestling program. Dennis just couldn't stay away from coaching – it was his true calling. He had many successes on the field and on the mat, but his true legacy is not with a win-

loss record, but in the number of people he inspired over his 45-year career.

He leaves his adored wife, Robin, and his sister, Charlene (Ron) Murdoff. He also leaves behind two beloved daughters, Ann (Dan) LoBue and Jane (Todd) Hashbarger. He also survived by his step-children, Jans (Kaia) Carlson, Leif (Lindsay) Carlson, and Anna Carlson. Dennis was proud of his two grandsons and four step-grandchildren.

Will be in Watson Cemetery in Leonard, ND, next to his parents.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations for medical and funeral expenses. Please send memorials to: Robin Carlson Kaatz, Box 802, Kenmare, ND 58746

The family will establish a scholarship fund for Wadena-Deer Creek and Kenmare high schools in the name of Dennis Kaatz.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 14. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel  
205 4th Street Southwest  
Wadena, MN 56482  
(218) 631-3632

## Visitation

MAY 15. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Wadena  
403 2nd St. SE  
Wadena, MN 56482

## Service

MAY 15. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Wadena  
403 2nd St. SE  
Wadena, MN 56482

# Tribute Wall

TB

“ A great coach, instructor and friend on and off the playing field. His easy going approach to baseball made it feel unpressured and natural, truly the hallmarks of someone who knew what he was doing. Rest in Peace Coach.

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**Tony Becker** - May 20, 2015 at 08:23 AM

PO

“ Polly.anderson lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



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**polly.anderson** - May 17, 2015 at 04:18 PM

PO

Glad we got to see him at coach Brieds funeral. He always had a love for Wrestling as well as for the kids Love Calvin and Polly Anderson

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**polly.anderson** - May 17, 2015 at 04:20 PM

DB

“ He will be missed. He made baseball hard but fun. I have so many lessons that I have learned from him

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**David Bentrup** - May 16, 2015 at 07:45 AM

CN

“ *Clay Nagel purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dennis Kaatz.*



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**Clay Nagel** - May 15, 2015 at 09:22 AM

PL

“ *Pat Lorentz lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Pat Lorentz** - May 15, 2015 at 07:53 AM

KS

“ *Kathy Smith lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Kathy Smith** - May 14, 2015 at 06:01 PM

MP

“ *Mary & Sam Phillips lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Mary & Sam Phillips** - May 14, 2015 at 10:36 AM

PH

“ Denny was fun to work with, just happened my boys were deeply involved in wrestling when we took a couple of trips to State. Denny, Mike and I would spend hours talking about teams we knew were going to be tough and strategies to beat them. One year we were doing battle for section team and we were in the Waska gym wrestling I can't remember who, but only thinking of our nemesis that year, Waska, they were our ranked competitor for section title. As we were trouncing the unremembered team, Aitkin was taking it to Waska. When it became apparent that Aitkin was going to upset, Denny walk over to me with a little grin and asks, "know anything about Aitkin?" He was fun to be around and anytime I think of my boys wrestling his memory will always be there.



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**Pat Hunke** - May 14, 2015 at 09:04 AM

PF

“ Paul Fearing lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



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**Paul Fearing** - May 13, 2015 at 08:00 PM

DV

“Mr Kaatz” as I respectfully called him, was my football & wrestling coach and I also had him as a teacher. Dennis had the ability to communicate with young adults to where the kids engaged and the learning process took place between him and the kids. He was a great motivator and always rewarded the people whether you won or lost. I still remembering winning a couple of close wrestling matches and he would acknowledge the win with his wonderful smile. He would push us to challenge the older wrestlers on the varsity or JV for their weight class. His motivation & coaching encouraged me to develop and have success as a young adult and I have used this to help coach other young adults through the years. My thoughts & prayers to the Kaatz family. He will be missed.



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**Dale Vierkant** - May 13, 2015 at 10:06 AM

DW

“ Dave And Lynda Wosmek lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



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**Dave and Lynda Wosmek** - May 12, 2015 at 08:16 PM

KG

“ Kathleen (Sepanski) Grussing lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



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**Kathleen (Sepanski) Grussing** - May 12, 2015 at 07:55 PM

Trent  
Gilb

“ Trent Gilb lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Trent Gilb - May 12, 2015 at 05:13 PM

JS

“ Jill Stevens-Becker lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Jill Stevens-Becker - May 12, 2015 at 04:54 PM

TT

“ Tim Tigges lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Tim Tigges - May 12, 2015 at 03:13 PM

SE

“ Shawn Erickson lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Shawn Erickson - May 12, 2015 at 02:31 PM

BR

“ *Brenda & Mark Reger lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Brenda & Mark Reger** - May 12, 2015 at 12:45 PM

TL

“ *Trent And Marcia Loween lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Trent and Marcia Loween** - May 12, 2015 at 12:17 PM

DC

“ *Dave And Sara (Quincer) Christianson lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Dave and Sara (Quincer) Christianson** - May 12, 2015 at 11:53 AM

CC

“ I had so much respect and admiration for Mr. Kaatz. I was very fortunate to have him as both a Teacher and Baseball coach for 6 years. He made you want to be successful as much for him as you did for yourself. The true testament of a great teacher and coach. He demanded that you respect the game and play it the right way every time you stepped on the field. He pushed you, and once he knew what you were capable of he held you to that standard every time out. He ran a tight ship, but it's the times that he let his guard down that I'll remember the most. He couldn't help it. Being on a Baseball field made him feel like a kid again. A large part of my love for the game and all of the life lessons that come with it is because of him. I try to pass that on to my son and all of the Little Leaguers that I coach today. We lost a great one. He will be missed, but his legacy will live on through the countless number of people that he made such a positive impact on.

Chris Carter  
WHS Class of 1991

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Chris Carter - May 12, 2015 at 11:25 AM

LS

“ Larry Schmidt lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



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Larry Schmidt - May 12, 2015 at 10:40 AM

M(

“ *Melanie Crunden (Amundson) lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



Melanie Crunden (Amundson) - May 12, 2015 at 08:49 AM

MT

“ *Missy Tabery lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



Missy Tabery - May 12, 2015 at 08:48 AM

MT

*He represented the blue and gold with pride and will be greatly missed!!*

Missy Tabery - May 12, 2015 at 08:49 AM



“ *Dennis was my baseball coach for many years. He liked to make sure you followed the rules, but he still wanted you to have fun. I will always think of him with a smile on his face, imparting his baseball knowledge to a bunch of teenagers. Mr. Kaatz definitely impacted a lot of people in a positive manner. Thoughts and prayers to the family in this time of loss. Godspeed to you Dennis!*



John Piepkorn - May 12, 2015 at 08:19 AM

GK

“ Greg Krier lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Greg Krier - May 12, 2015 at 08:00 AM

NP

“ Nancy Peterson lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Nancy Peterson - May 12, 2015 at 07:09 AM

KB

“ Kelly Bain lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Kelly Bain - May 12, 2015 at 06:21 AM

LF

“ Lucinda & Bryan Wegscheid Family lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Lucinda & Bryan Wegscheid Family - May 11, 2015 at 11:48 PM

PG

“ *Paula Gray lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Paula Gray** - May 11, 2015 at 11:21 PM

BM

“ *Mr. Kaatz was a great person, teacher and coach. I have many great memories of him and especially playing baseball for him over a number of years. I was fortunate enough to have been on both a VFW and a High School State baseball appearance under his leadership. He was a great teacher of the game and his record would go on to prove that. Mr. Kaatz taught all of us young boys how to grow up into fine young men by setting an example and passing on leadership qualities on and off of the field. He also liked a good joke and there were plenty of them to go around on and off the baseball field. Anything from the missing Mark Twain bust, to the infamous hot pink practice shirt that kept showing up year after year, and many others. I credit him with the reason that I have been a coach for the past 15 years. I try myself to keep it simple and not high pressure just like he used to. Whenever the kids do anything crazy I think back to myself " What would Denny have done?" and try to approach it just like he would probably have. I will miss you Coach and thanks for always being there for me and the rest of the guys. Rest in Peace.*

*Brad Macklem  
WHS class of 1989*

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**Brad Macklem** - May 11, 2015 at 10:44 PM

CL

“ Chad Loween lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Chad Loween - May 11, 2015 at 09:22 PM

CF

“ Coach Katz was a good man and a great motivator. He didn't expect anything from you he wouldn't do himself. He will be greatly missed.




Chad Loween and Family - May 11, 2015 at 09:21 PM

MK

“ Mike & Rhonda Kleinke lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Mike & Rhonda Kleinke - May 11, 2015 at 09:20 PM

 Krystal Kenney-Boyd

“ Thoughts and prayers are with you.



Krystal Kenney-Boyd - May 11, 2015 at 07:27 PM

BF

“ *He was a great wrestling coach. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Kaatz family.  
Sincerely, Buck and Debbie Foster*



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**Buck Foster** - May 11, 2015 at 05:50 PM

BH

“ *Bob & Donna Haman lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Bob & Donna Haman** - May 11, 2015 at 03:08 PM

MG

“ *Mr. Kaatz, as I refered to him, as I was @ the very tender age of 13 when I met him, a very long time ago, was a very steady & positive example in my life. I have always admired Dennis, I am sad to see him leave us soo early, Michael Gleason*

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**Michael Gleason** - May 11, 2015 at 12:41 PM

AK

“ *Amy Kleinke lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Amy Kleinke** - May 11, 2015 at 11:58 AM

RO

“ *Ross Olson lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Ross Olson** - May 11, 2015 at 10:50 AM

DM

“ *Dixie Murray lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Dixie Murray** - May 11, 2015 at 10:30 AM

JK

“ *Jackie Kern lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Jackie Kern** - May 11, 2015 at 10:16 AM

DL

“ *Dennis & Linda Loween lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Dennis & Linda Loween** - May 11, 2015 at 10:06 AM

MN

“ We have great memories of Denny . . . . his calm demeanor, subtle sense of humor, friendly smile, positive attitude. It was fun to watch him interact with his team members during games and matches . . . . always very impressive! The world has lost a very good man too soon! Luther and Marilyn Nervig

marilyn nervig - May 11, 2015 at 10:05 AM

LM

“ Lance Mayer lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Lance Mayer - May 11, 2015 at 10:00 AM

MN

“ Marilyn Nervig lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



marilyn nervig - May 11, 2015 at 10:00 AM

ML

“ Missy Lorentz lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Missy Lorentz - May 11, 2015 at 09:35 AM

JK

“ Jason & Bree Kenney lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



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**Jason & Bree Kenney** - May 11, 2015 at 08:52 AM

JF

“ Jason Kenney And Family lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



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**Jason Kenney and Family** - May 11, 2015 at 08:50 AM

DL

“ Dan & Melissa Lawson lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



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**Dan & Melissa Lawson** - May 11, 2015 at 08:26 AM

MJ

“ So sorry to hear of the loss of Dennis. He was a great person and a great coach of our son Jason. John and Marie Johnson

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**Marie Johnson** - May 10, 2015 at 11:39 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Dennis Kaatz.



May 10, 2015 at 08:44 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Dennis Kaatz.



May 10, 2015 at 08:19 PM



“ *Dan & Melissa Lawson lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



**Dan & Melissa Lawson** - May 10, 2015 at 06:20 PM



“ *Bruce & Lucy Rehm lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



**Bruce & Lucy Rehm** - May 10, 2015 at 06:15 PM

CK

“ *Craig Klawitter lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Craig Klawitter** - May 10, 2015 at 05:35 PM

JS

“ *Josh Sweere lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Josh Sweere** - May 10, 2015 at 04:03 PM

DS

“ *Dan And Deb Sweere lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Dan and Deb Sweere** - May 10, 2015 at 04:02 PM

JS

“ Coach Kaatz was easy to play for. He treated each player on the team with the utmost respect. And it showed. When I was a junior, one of our players took a bust of Mark Twain from the Library. The Librarian was beside herself. We all knew about it and joked about it in practice. Coach gave us a "if you know anything speech about this" speech. One day in practice, the bust showed up for batting practice. Coach Kaatz got a sheepish grin on his face. He couldn't help but laugh with us. He took a team picture of us surrounding Mark Twain, plus some snapshots of the bust on pitchers mound. After practice, he took the bust back to the Library and snuck it back in. He appreciated a good joke, just like we did. I loved playing baseball for him. He made you feel relaxed. As a coach today, I try to recreate what I experienced playing for him. Hopefully I have succeeded. Rest in Peace, Coach! You taught me what a leader should be!

*John Stigman*  
*WHS Class of 1988*

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**John Stigman** - May 10, 2015 at 03:59 PM



*Awesome!*

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**John Piepkorn** - May 12, 2015 at 08:21 AM

MF

“ Our Sympathy to the Kaatz family. ~~~Mike & Marie Fraune.



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**Mike & Marie Fraune** - May 10, 2015 at 08:00 AM

DA

“ Duane And Jonell Asfeld lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Duane and Jonell Asfeld - May 10, 2015 at 07:55 AM

SO

“ Sending loads of prayers to the Kaatz family. Mr. Kaatz was an awesome Social Studies teacher that I had back when I was in 7th grade. He was an awesome instructor heaven is richly blessed to have him in their mist. Sharyl (Umland) Olson



sharyl olson - May 10, 2015 at 07:38 AM

KL

“ Kelly Lorentz lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Kelly Lorentz - May 10, 2015 at 02:32 AM

LB

“ Lorie And Jim Baron lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



lorie and jim baron - May 09, 2015 at 09:20 PM

TB

“ Troy Baron lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Troy Baron - May 09, 2015 at 09:18 PM

DS

“ Dave Schumacher lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Dave Schumacher - May 09, 2015 at 07:57 PM

DS

One of the best teachers I ever had, RIP Mr Kaatz

Dave Schumacher - May 09, 2015 at 07:58 PM

RK

“ Rich & Mavis Kendall lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz



Rich & Mavis Kendall - May 09, 2015 at 07:25 PM

JD

“ *Jerry/Janice Denny lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Jerry/Janice Denny** - May 09, 2015 at 06:25 PM

MW

“ *Myron & Karen Winkelman lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**Myron & Karen Winkelman** - May 09, 2015 at 04:49 PM

TF

“ *The Montan Family lit a candle in memory of Dennis Kaatz*



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**The Montan Family** - May 09, 2015 at 12:31 PM

MF

*Montan Family*

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**Montan Family** - May 09, 2015 at 12:32 PM