



David John Bales

September 5, 1964 - December 3, 2020

David John Bales, 56 passed away Thursday, December 3rd, 2020. He was born on September 5, 1964 to Walter and Eileen Bales who preceded him in death. David is survived by his two sisters Hazel Anne Griffin and Melissa Bales. Visitation will be on Wednesday, December 9 from 6-7 p.m. followed by a rosary at 7 p.m. both at Holy Family Cathedral. A funeral mass will be held Thursday, December 10 at Holy Family Cathedral.

Events

DEC 9 **Visitation** 06:00PM - 07:00PM

Holy Family Cathedral
122 West 8th Street, Tulsa, OK, US, 74119

DEC 9 **Rosary** 07:00PM

Holy Family Cathedral
122 West 8th Street, Tulsa, OK, US, 74119

DEC 10 **Funeral Mass** 02:00PM

Holy Family Cathedral
122 West 8th Street, Tulsa, OK, US, 74119

Comments



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David John Bales.



December 08, 2020 at 09:11 PM



“ "Coach" was one of the most likable and endearing basketball fans I've ever known. The first time I saw him attend a game, other than a TU game, was in my building, the ORU Mabee Center, and it was then I knew ORU Basketball had arrived! Because to garner attention from someone like David, with such a huge love of his game, was truly an honor. My regret at the time was there were no court side seats and as most everyone who knew Coach also knew, court side seating was where his brand of court side "coaching" shined.

I saw him several more occasions after that. Once or twice during some of the high school tournaments we hosted. Regardless of the cordial tones of chit-chat and catching up-type conversations, when I asked him about basketball, regardless of the league, age of the players, or the schools involved, his tone and demeanor immediately switched to his unmistakable, lovable, and supremely knowledgeable sounding persona as the coach he knew he was. If he was ever allowed seating with the team on the bench, I dare say there wasn't an arena in the country where fans would not have been abuzz with conversations of "who is the tall member of their coaching staff?" He would absolutely have fit right in, but especially if the game was close and "his" team needed encouragement in the form of scolding.

To have such enthusiasm for sport is inspiring. To never be seen in public at competitions without coat and tie is notable. And to be so accommodating to those of us who just wanted to know him is heart warming. And that's what David "Coach" Bales was, and is, a heart warming soul who will live in the hearts and memories of those who have been blessed by his visitations and presence at Tulsa basketball events.

Sincerely,
Vick Barker, Operations Director
ORU Mabee Center

Vick Barker - December 08, 2020 at 03:04 PM



“ "Coach" made this world a better place. He was such a kind and cheerful man. We always looked forward to seeing him at the Cathedral on Sunday afternoons and visiting with him after church about TU sports. He was a legendary presence at TU basketball and football games! Our deepest sympathy to Anne and Melissa and family.

Maureen and Scott Petty

Scott Petty - December 08, 2020 at 01:45 PM



“ David was a special soul. I will always remember his huge smile, his positive spirit and his passion for TU athletic teams. Anne and Melissa, you were so blessed to share David with the world. The world is a lesser place without him, and we all grieve his loss with you. Remember the good times and find comfort in knowing that the love he shared is eternal...Jerry and Dinah Brabander

Jerry Brabander - December 08, 2020 at 08:49 AM



“ I remember "Coach" cheering the Bishop Kelley Comets on to victory from the sidelines at football games. Later, I got to know him better when we attended the same Mass at Holy Family on Sundays. Always friendly and cheerful, he had a sweet spirit and we Holy Family parishioners will miss him....Cris Cox

Cris Cox - December 06, 2020 at 01:43 PM



“ I met David at a Bible Study in 1994 & we became great friends. He loved being a coach & he loved working with children of all ages. David was truly a "gentle giant" & his smile & laughter will be missed by his many fans. We had many lunches & dinners at the Village Inn (now closed) by the LaFortune Golf Course. David is a new Angel in Heaven... He was a devout Catholic. I will miss my dear friend...he called me frequently & would share many things about what was going on at Bishop Kelley.
Sandy Skinner, Tulsa, OK

Sandy Skinner - December 07, 2020 at 08:37 PM



“ We saw a ton of ORU basketball games together. So sad to hear of his passing. Prayers for the family. ORU Prof Sonny Branham.

Sonny Branham - January 09 at 11:05 PM