

My Bud and me

By now, you've probably heard the news. Our beloved Bud Furillo, "The Steamer," passed away peacefully Tuesday morning.

It was a shock. He was fine Monday when we spoke on the phone; we quickly discussed his column, but I was waiting for an interview, so I told him I would call him Tuesday and hung up.

I have been told that I cannot beat myself up over this.

We think we prepare ourselves for these things. The elderly pass on — it's an inescapable condition of existence. But a legend, by definition, is immortal. And Bud, by ANY measure, was a legend.

He was so right there, so sharp, so fun, so much like one of my 20-something friends. And, hell, his memory was better at age 80 than mine is at age 23. A prime example: the OVN once held a contest where locals were encouraged to send Bud their sports trivia questions. If you stumped him, you won a free lunch with him at Giorgio's Sports Bar.

Nobody managed to "Stump The Steamer." Not one.

I don't know how so much legend fit into one old man's body.

I thought we had at least one more football season together. I thought we would see his book published and become wildly successful. I thought we'd use that "wad of dough" he would earn from the book to buy him the bright red Mini Cooper he'd wanted so badly.

I thought we had more time together. More time to enjoy his authentic Italian lasagna, and to sing Sinatra at the Hill Top at Friday night karaoke.

I guess I took for granted that Bud's candle, which burned so brightly to light my way these last few years, could ever go out. He was more like one of those trick candles you put on your little brother's birthday cake — they just keep flaming back up, over and over again, until you finally just spit on them. And nobody would've dared to spit on Bud.

Hence my surprise Tuesday morning.

Bud was simultaneously so much larger than life and so incredibly down to earth. He could tell you stories about watching go-go girls with Sinatra, then switch over and give you the best relationship advice you've ever had.

That was Bud — always looking out for this people. And making them laugh.

Bud was — no, is — a towering legend. Towering. But he left no one in his shadow. He brought me right up with him in the sunshine, along with every other aspiring writer or athlete he took under his wing. For so many journalists, Bud was a slingshot — he launched you into the business at full speed, with his friendship and brutal honesty.

But that was another thing we loved about him — you always knew where he stood. He shot from the hip, holsters smoking and publishers be damned. You knew how he felt about his kids, USC, Oaks Christian and Barry Bonds.

His columns for the OVN were like a dump truck full of treasure. The OVN being the dump truck — the small, grateful pump truck — and his words being the treasure — the Holy Grail of sports knowledge, fit onto one sixth of a page.

Most of all, Bud was just always, always there for me.

He took me to an Angels game, led me into the dugout and the locker room and Mike Scioscia's office and the press box. He invited me to Troy when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame, and got me access to the field as USC took on Washington. He took me to the Pac-10 Conference Media Day last year, where he introduced me to Pete Carroll and the other coaches and half the sports writers in the country. He hooked up me and my boyfriend with tickets to the USC home opener against Arkansas.

Writing in this space that has been Bud's for so long now feels as though I am sneaking into his house, rummaging through his things. This is Bud's spot.

Like Carson Palmer's number at USC, I wish I could retire this side of the page in Bud's honor.

Bud, you crotchety old "Stud Muffin." You have been ... something else, man.

I am sure you're sitting up there now, telling Sammy Davis, Babe Ruth and Robert Erickson's grandparents about the upcoming USC season. You're probably singing karaoke with Sinatra himself, and slapping Chick Hearn on the back after telling one of your dirtier jokes. Heaven will reek with your charisma and laughter.

I'll miss you, Bud.
 All my love,
 Your Misty



Photo submitted

Erika Coolman, left, Maria Halvorson, Kooros Samadzadeh and Dmitry Kryukov celebrate — and recharge — at the Half-Ironman finish line.

Conquering the Half-Ironman

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It's been a while, but Ojai residents Erika Coolman, Maria Halvorson, Kooros Samadzadeh and Dmitry Kryukov still remember crossing that finish line at the Half-Ironman Triathlon June 3 in Kona, Hawaii.

Although the Ironman is twice the distance, the Half-Ironman is still an unbelievable test of human strength, determination and endurance. It is 1.2 miles of swimming, 56 miles of bicycling, then 13.1 miles of running — one right after the other, without a rest in between.

Having done smaller events in the past, married couple Halvorson and Samadzadeh joined Ojai Valley School teacher Coolman and student Kryukov in Hawaii for one of the most prestigious triathlons in the world.

They arrived on "The Big Island" to find it windy, but not as hot as they had anticipated.

"The wind slowed us down," said Coolman, "but at least it wasn't so hot."

Kryukov finished first, in about five and one-half hours; Samadzadeh came in about 20 minutes later. Both Coolman

and Halvorson came in at six hours and 25 minutes.

"It took me about an hour to be able to walk," laughed Coolman. "We just staggered around, eating and drinking, just sitting. We took a vacation afterward!"

Kryukov, who is currently back home in Russia until his senior year begins this fall, won his age group in the Half-Ironman. It was his first competition of this length.

His win gave him a slot in the full Ironman; but because he had to return home and wasn't 18 yet, he could not take up the offer. That he even got the offer made Coolman, also his cross country coach, proud.

"I had retired at that time (from triathlons), but I could tell (Dmitry) would be really good at it," said Coolman. "So I trained him to do it. He's the best runner at school."

Teacher and student did a lot of training — 50-mile bike rides followed by two-hour runs. They also participated in the Garret Lemire Memorial Grand Prix as practice.

The pair is excited about next year, when they reunite for more local races. Samadzadeh and Halvorson will participate in the 2006 Santa Barbara Triathlon next month.

Characters, Hookers hold Sundowners lead

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The Sundowners standings list remains unchanged at the top and bottom of the ladder this week, but those in between made lots of jumps — and crashes.

The Characters remain on top, followed by Soule Park Hookers. Doyle's Auto Service is enjoying a stint in the top three this week, up from fourth. They ousted M.O. Sash & Door from that spot, moving the Doors to fifth.

The Scramblers made the largest leap of the day, moving from 13th to seventh. Ed Pillado's 21 points helped them along the way. The Scramblers traded places with Your Handicap's What?, moving from seventh to 13th. The team took a harsh blow with only three players showing up at Soule Park Tuesday for a total of 46 team points. Charlie Griswald's one-over-par 36 brought in the highest score for the team, with 17 points.

Five Blind Mice fell the farthest, from fifth to 14th this week. Sam Williamson's one-over-par 36 garnered the highest score on the team (18 points).

The Chiefs "i.e." moved from 12th to eighth this week, tied there with two other teams at 220 in team points for the second half of the season.

Big points came from Jerrod Martin (Soule Park Hookers) Tuesday, as his four-under-par 31 earned him 26 points. That's one away from the highest Sundowners' score ever.

Mark Sauer was close behind with 24 points for Buggy's Bandits. Other high scorers include: Barry Guerrero (Characters) and Ron Mincey (Soule What), 22 points each; Danny Cole (Doyle's Auto Service), Steve Raphaelz (Characters), Torrey Evans (Rhino's FFFF), and Scott Chasse

(Buggy's Bandits), 21 points each. Jerrod Wallace of Soule What posted a two-under-par 33, while M.O. Sash & Door's Barclay Martin Jr. posted 36. Both Jim Doyle (Doyle's Auto Service) and Gunther Zweimuller (Soule What) posted 37's.

Standings, Week 12
 Characters, 241
 Soule Park Hookers, 238
 Doyle's Auto Service, 235

Soule What, 232
 M.O. Sash & Door, 232
 Parker's Putters, 226
 Scramblers, 222
 Chiefs "i.e.," 220
 Rhino's FFFF, 220
 Village Idiots, 220
 Buggy's Bandits, 218
 Leftovers, 218
 Your Handicaps What?, 218
 Five Blind Mice, 218
 Good, Pick It Up, 210
 Marshall's Ropers, 192

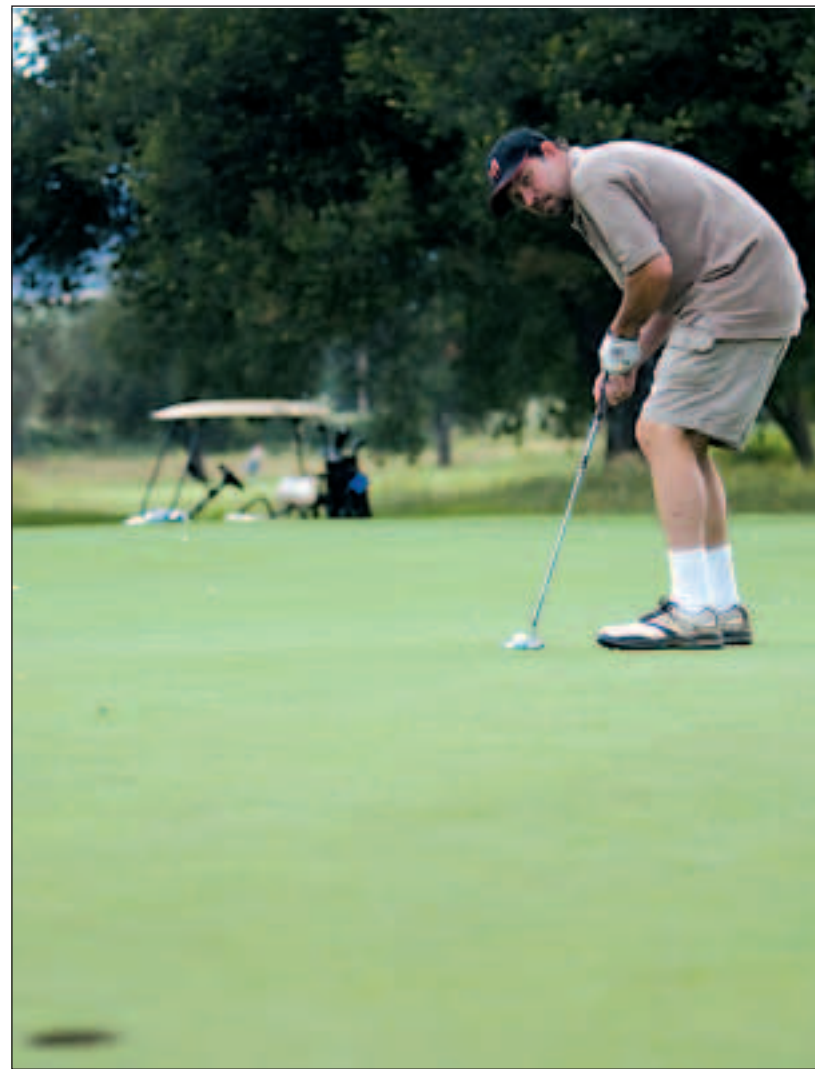


Photo by Kaila Williams/ Brooks Institute of Photography

Rick Brooks (Characters) and the Sundowners will resume play Tuesday.

Soule Park Senior Men's Golf

Sebek, Davis duos tie at 61

The Soule Park Seniors played their weekly golf tournament on July 12 at Soule Park Golf Course. The tournament was a two-man team ball.

There was a tie for first place in the first flight. Dick Sebek and Bill Wood tied with Jim Davis and Jim Sanders; each team posted 61.

John Martinez and Pete Mercado finished third with a 62.

In the second flight, Gary Markley and Mike McGill were

the winners, posting 56. Second place went to Al Gross and Hugh Black, with a 59. Third place was awarded to Terry Clifford and Ted Exner, who came in with 60.

The winners of the third flight were Vern Goff and John Fitzgerald, who logged a 59. Using a blind draw, Frank Cavallero took second place with a 60. The third-place finishers were Alex Doran and Jerry Kinyon with a 62.

The SPSMGC plays every

week at the course. New members are welcome and may pick up applications at the course. They may also call President Ken Lakes at 646-4243 or Secretary Ray Fraker at 649-9064.

In the recently completed match play, President's Cup Tournament, Bob Lombardi took first place with a win over Tony Hirsch. Earlier this month, Hal Janssen had a hole in one on the third hole.

SPORTS SHORTS

NHS offers reserved football seating Aug. 3

Starting Aug. 3 from 8 to 11:30 a.m., Nordhoff High School will put its reserved football seating on sale. Current Nordhoff Parent Association members get priority on the first two days of sale.

Seats, which are located in front of the scoring booth, will be available for purchase in the counseling office.

Nonmembers of the NPA can become members beginning Aug. 7; you must become a member to purchase reserved seating. Membership is \$35, and seats are \$10 apiece. A maximum of four seats can be purchased per family.

Seats can also be purchased at Nordhoff's Ranger Roundup days Aug. 17 and 18.

For more information, call 640-4343, Ext. 1764.

Take a surf safari with Warren Glaser and ORD

The Ojai Recreation Department and Warren Glaser are again offering their Summer Surf Safari surfing camp.

Glaser, who is an experienced ocean expert, has taught this class for the ORD for a number of years. Using soft surfboards, Glaser will

instruct students in the basics of surfing, including surf etiquette.

Participants must be confident ocean swimmers ages 9 to 15. All gear is provided, as is transportation to the beach each day. Water shoes are recommended, but not required.

Students must arrive at the ORD before the 8:30 a.m. departure time. Students will return to the ORD around 1:30 p.m. each day.

The first two camps have come and gone, but several more remain. Camp three runs July 24 to 28, and camp 4 runs July 31 through Aug. 4.

Adults have their own classes, too; those 18 and older can join Glaser Sept. 16 and 23, or Sept. 14 and 21 (both are Saturdays). Classes run 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Locations depend on surfing conditions. For more information, call the ORD at 646-1872.

ORD Fitness Center open for summer workouts

Need to get in shape for bathing suit season? Need to build strength for football in the fall? Look no farther than the Ojai Recreation Department's Teen Fitness Center. It offers all the equipment of traditional gyms, but charges a fraction of the price.

Teens 14 to 19 can stop by Monday through Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. Drop-in is \$3 per day, and a month membership is \$20.

The program is run by Gary Ryan, NSCA program coordinator.

Ryan has special programs for athletes of all sports, especially football and basketball.

The cost for special sports training is \$50 per month or \$75 per month with nutrition counseling. Training times are flexible, but meet three times per week.

Private lessons are also available; Ryan can create specific workouts and nutrition schedules for everyone, including those with disabilities or injuries.

Pre-season basketball and football training begins July 31. Athletes will train each weekday from 9 to 11 a.m.

For more information, call the ORD at 646-1872, or drop by the Teen Fitness Center, located above the gymnasium at the ORD.

Assistant cross country coach needed for Nordhoff

Nordhoff High School is currently seeking an assistant cross country coach for the 2006-2007 school year, to help head coach Javier Ramirez. For more

information, contact NHS athletic director Dick Sebek at 640-4343, Ext. 1802.

Feeling sporty?

The ORD hosts ongoing drop-in sports throughout the summer. Pick-up pingpong is held on Thursday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (\$2 at the door; all others are \$3 at the door).

Ultimate Frisbee is held Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. Basketball is held Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

Volleyball is held every Sunday from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Or, try the ORD game room, located in the Boyd Center. With pingpong, air hockey, pool and more, the room is open Fridays from 6 to 10 p.m.

Eagles seek players

The Ojai Eagles youth football club is looking for boys ages 8 to 14 interested in having fun and playing some football.

Registration is being taken until Aug. 7 (first day of practice). The fee is \$225 per football player, and travel is required for away games.

For more information, call Eagles President Brian Wadsworth at 649-8114.

Britannia heads back to OVS July 30

For the 25th year a large number of players from all

over Southern California will be attending Britannia Soccer Camp, a one-week coaching session running July 30 through Aug. 4.

The camp is for girls and boys ages 5 through 16, and is a boarding and day camp for players to improve their playing skills and develop team tactics.

The Junior Camper Program is available for players ages 5 through 7; this program runs from 8:45 a.m. until noon, July 31 to Aug. 4.

Participants will learn from professionals to improve their individual technique.

For more information, call Ojai Valley School's Lower Campus at 646-1423.

Play soccer for 'Nova

Villanova's soccer program is hosting their third annual Villanova Cup on July 29.

Participants will be rostered on 10-player teams and compete in a minimum of three seven-a-side, 40 minute games.

Teams will be "recruited" and "coached" by members of the VPS girls' soccer team. Matches will be held on the upper field at VPS. Participants will enjoy a tri-tip barbecue after the games.

The cost is \$30 per person, with proceeds benefiting VPS girls' soccer. Contact John Haddidian at 450-6357 or e-mail at novasoccer@msn.com