



## Coach Wayne McClain

January 15, 1954 - October 15, 2014

Coach Wayne McClain, 60, of Champaign, formerly of Peoria, passed away peacefully at 11:45 a.m. Wednesday, October 15, 2014, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, IL surrounded by family and friends who loved him dearly. Celebration of Life Services for Coach McClain will be at noon Wednesday, October 22, 2014, at the Fluid Event Center, 601 N. Country Fair Drive, Champaign, IL 61821. Officiant will be Bishop Lloyd E. Gwin, Pastor LeRoy Gibson and Pastor Deveraux Hubbard. Immediately following the services, interment will be held in Mount Hope Cemetery, 611 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Champaign, IL 61820. Fluid Event Center parking will be for immediate family and special guests; adjacent public parking will be provided with bus shuttles available.

A maker of men, pillar in the community, husband and father extraordinaire, Coach Wayne McClain will now be coaching from the greatest vantage point in all the universe - Heaven.

To say Coach McClain was simply born is not good enough. He exploded into life in Peoria, Ill., on Jan. 15, 1954. He catapulted into the world of basketball by becoming a team player for the Peoria Manual High School, from which he later graduated. He continued his leap into sports while attending Bradley University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in physical education, but was not satisfied and went on to earn his master's degree from Illinois State University in Bloomington.

Coach McClain had a thirst for life and great love in his heart for his

sweetheart Robin, whom he married, and from this union had two children, Sergio and Brindeshie.

The love for the game of basketball started as early as his high school days. McClain played the position of guard under Coach Van Scyoc for the basketball team of Peoria Manual High School and after graduation went on to play guard for Bradley University under the tutelage of Coach Stowell. He began his athletic career prior to the early 1970s while teaching at Blaine Sumner Middle School and Harrison Elementary Schools in Peoria. His coaching endeavors led him to serve at Peoria Manual as an assistant basketball coach to the legendary Dick Van Scyoc for 18 years until being named head coach himself in 1995.

It was Head Coach McClain who made history by coaching the Rams to three of four straight state titles from 1994 to 1997, three of which paralleled the Chicago Bulls wins of the NBA World Championships of 1992, 1993 and 1994.

McClain's coaching methods were so profound that he did one better than the Bulls and garnered one more state title with his winning high school players going beyond the three-peat parallel of the famous Chicago Bulls.

USA Today named his 1997 squad, led by future Illini Sergio McClain, Marcus Griffin and Frank Williams, National High School Champions. Coach Wayne McClain received the notable distinction of National High School Coach of the Year.

McClain was tough on his players, but never asked them to do things he himself could not do. He insisted his players keep in shape through a healthy diet and challenging exercise. McClain was a man of honor who practiced what he preached and his players respected him for his own rigorous workouts, which included running 6 miles a day and disciplined eating habits. His teaching career included teaching at the sixth-grade level, teaching high school physical education and as the interim Manual High School Dean of Students.

Wayne McClain joined the Illinois staff under Bill Self and stayed on with

Bruce Weber. Coach McClain went on to spend 11 years with the Fighting Illini coaching staff, including his last three seasons as associate head coach. In those 11 years coaching at Illinois, including the last nine under Coach Bruce Weber, the Fighting Illini posted 235 wins on a .685 winning percentage and advanced to the NCAA Tournament nine times, including a trip to the national championship game in 2005. He was the longest tenured assistant coach in the Big Ten until he left the school in 2012.

Coach McClain joined Coach Bruce Weber at Kansas State as Director of Student Development. In his position as director of student-athlete development, McClain was responsible for a variety of duties, including basketball-related matters, handling special projects for the coaching staff and assisting with personnel development and recruiting. In addition, he was involved in a Life Skills program and counseled student-athletes in career planning and goal setting.

After one year at Kansas State, Coach McClain was offered the Head Coaching position at Central High School in Champaign. In his first year at Champaign Central, Coach McClain guided the Maroons to a regional title and a sectional win. As a result, he was named All-Area Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year.

Coach McClain was a man of excellence, character and integrity who loved his wife and children. Coach McClain would often say he "had the best wife ever that would come and sit in gyms with him all over and watch him do what he did best, teach players how to be men first and players second."

Family was very important to Coach McClain and he extended his love not only to his brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, but to the sisters and children and brothers-in-law of his wife Robin. Coach McClain was a Sartorial Splendor of dress, and was named the Best Dressed Coach of 2005.

Coach McClain mentored many young men, but none more so than his beloved grandson, Sergio McClain Jr. Their love for each other was profound and joyful. One of his favorite hobbies was hanging out with his grandson

washing the cars and doing yard work.

Coach McClain was very loyal to his friends as well, loved family dinners and BBQs where he could tell his story to others.

Coach Wayne McClain leaves to mourn his loss his wife, Robin McClain; son, Sergio McClain Sr.; daughter, Brindeshie (expected granddaughter, Brindisi McClain-Edwards) McClain; grandson, Sergio McClain Jr.; brothers, Puegot T., Jerry and Eddie (Dorothy) McClain; sisters, Rosie and Eunice McClain; and countless friends and other family. He was preceded in death by his mother, Rosetta McClain; a brother, Tony McClain; and a sister, Evelyn McClain.

Memorials may be made to the Wayne McClain Pipeline Foundation online at <http://217309pipeline.com/coach-wayne-mcclain-foundation/>

Funeral services are entrusted to Williams Memorial Services, 1203 N. Market St., Champaign, IL 61820.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

OCT **22**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Fluid Event Center  
601 N. Country Fair Dr.  
Champaign, IL 61821  
<http://www.fluideventcenter.com>

## Memorial Service

OCT **24**. 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Manual Academy  
811 S. Griswold St.  
Peoria, IL 61605

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simons Mortuary created a Webcast in memory of Coach Wayne McClain*



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**Simons Mortuary** - October 24, 2014 at 05:02 PM



“ *Coach Wayne McClain*

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January 29, 2023 at 06:10 AM



“ *Coach Wayne McClain*

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January 29, 2023 at 03:12 AM



“ *Always a class act and super nice and supportive. Met him back in the day while I was recruiting the Peoria area for Drake- he helped with good advise - I knew then he would get into college coaching-gifted. So sorry for the loss - my thoughts and prayers are with the family*

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**Mark Anderson** - October 25, 2017 at 05:25 PM

DC

“ Demarco Coburn lit a candle in memory of Coach Wayne McClain



demarco coburn - October 28, 2014 at 09:11 AM

SM

“ 8 files added to the album Champaign Funeral Booklet



Simons Motuary - October 25, 2014 at 01:03 PM

SM

“ 4 files added to the album Peoria Funeral Booklet



Simons Motuary - October 25, 2014 at 12:59 PM

FM

“ *A man among men, a friend among friends, forever in our hearts, our minds, our souls, Bless all that feel the loss.* ”

Fernandoe T Montgomery - October 24, 2014 at 07:51 PM

SD

“ *Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat lit a candle in memory of Coach Wayne McClain* ”



Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat - October 24, 2014 at 05:43 PM

EJ

“ *Earlene Braggs Jenkins lit a candle in memory of Coach Wayne McClain* ”



Earlene Braggs Jenkins - October 24, 2014 at 04:23 PM

CG

“ *Cheryll Lamon Gordon lit a candle in memory of Coach Wayne McClain* ”



Cheryll Lamon Gordon - October 24, 2014 at 03:02 PM

CC

“ *Crystal Compton-mann lit a candle in memory of Coach Wayne McClain*



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**crystal compton-mann** - October 24, 2014 at 01:16 PM

MM

“ *Mary Moore Ward (Candy Moore) lit a candle in memory of Coach Wayne McClain*



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**Mary Moore Ward (Candy Moore)** - October 24, 2014 at 11:30 AM

LJ

“ *Larry And Judy Jones lit a candle in memory of Coach Wayne McClain*



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**Larry and Judy Jones** - October 24, 2014 at 06:18 AM

LJ

*Thoughts and prayers of comfort for the McClain family.*

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**Larry & Judy Jones** - October 24, 2014 at 06:20 AM

LM

“ Lisa Moss lit a candle in memory of Coach Wayne McClain



Lisa Moss - October 23, 2014 at 06:37 PM

MA

“ How do we say goodbye to one who was always there? To the McClain family, we the Lampkin family send our deepest sympathy to you. He was our friend, brother, star athlete....and so much more. His legacy will last for generations of Peorians....near and far. May God continue to give you strength.

Mark - October 22, 2014 at 03:44 PM

EP

“ Wayne...It was a pleasure of knowing you at Manual. Your Classmate Evelyn Price-Guyton.



Evelyn Price-Guyton - October 22, 2014 at 09:08 AM

JV

“ James & Denise Clark Of Harrisonburg VA lit a candle in memory of Coach Wayne McClain



James & Denise Clark of Harrisonburg VA - October 22, 2014 at 08:38 AM