

GILBERT ("GIL) PAUL BRADFIELD JUNE 4, 2023



**Gilbert Paul Bradfield**, 68, called out his final play Sunday, June 4, signing off on a life that was full of love, laughs and plenty of great memories in Laramie, Wyo. God calls on all of His biggest players and, on this day, Gil's number was pulled.

Born to Gilbert Joseph Bradfield and Rose (Pampolone) Bradfield June 27, 1954, in East Orange, N.J., Gil was always destined to break the mold.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, **Jan Bradfield**, his sons **Andrew (Kadi) of Cheyenne**, **Alex (Lauren) of Austin** and **Danny of Laramie**, who loved him dearly. Gil is also survived by his **mother Rose**, and his brothers **Glenn of Newport R.I.**, and **Greg Bradfield of Jamestown R.I.**

Gil was an amazing **grandfather to Ellis and Olivia Bradfield**, known to them as "**Papa G.**" He was a proud uncle of seven nieces and nephews.

Gil was preceded in death by his father and **Marcus and Virginia Schnake**, his in-laws.

Born with "Jersey grit" in an area being transformed by many factors, the New York Yankees and Giants became major influences in Gil's formative years, resulting in a lifetime love for all things sports.

Gil grew up in Short Hills, N.J., and attended Catholic school at St. Rose of Lima Academy. Later on, he **graduated from Milburn High School**. Shortly after, Gil attended the **University of Wyoming** on a scholarship where he was an offensive lineman for the Wyoming Cowboys football

team from 1972 to 1977.

Football was not the only athletic pursuit that caught Gil's attention. He was an active member of the **WyoRugby club** during its early years on campus. During his fifth UW football season, Gil also **coached football at Laramie High School**. Off the field, Gil studied education and became a **special education teacher at Laramie Junior High School** and Laramie High School, while also earning his master's degree.

It was during this time that Gil's teaching and coaching legacy began. Upon leaving Cowboy football, he befriended a lifetime mentor and friend in Coach John Deti Jr. As Deti took over Laramie Plainsmen football, Deti made a call to a young player that caught his attention, Gil. This connection was the beginning of a life full of coaching. With enough awards to fill an entire wall in the family home, Gil won and coached in many championships across football, wrestling and, most notably, track and field. He refused to leave the field until the job was done, and participated or coached in a state championship every decade. Gil truly was involved in sports -- his passion in life.

After retirement, Gil did not leave his passion for coaching behind. Gil **shared his coaching wisdom with the City of Laramie Track and Field Youth Program**. His skills were put to good use as Gil was a **Level 1 USA Track and Field coach and a USA Master Level official**.

In 2021, Gil was **inducted into the Wyoming Coaches Hall of Fame**. His three sons, all great athletes, followed in his coaching footsteps.

His devotion and hard work did not go unnoticed as Gil never met a stranger.

Gil will be remembered for many things, such as his great laugh, clever

wit and love of kids but, most especially, his love for his "first wife," Jan, his kids, his grandchildren and his friends. He was an incredible person who enjoyed **spending his summers at the beach in Newport, R.I.**, and tailgating in the fall at UW football games with many of his former Cowboy teammates. He helped to host reunions each year for his lifetime football "brothers."

He did not need much to be happy and content: Good wind, big waves, deep snow, great games, any beer, a bold Hawaiian shirt but, most important, the Maroon, White and Gold. Gil will be with us in spirit and high in the bleachers at every Laramie and UW sporting event. He will be sorely missed by all because he touched numerous lives.

In Gil's honor, the lights at old and new Deti stadium will be lit on Friday night.

A vigil service will be held at St. Paul's Newman Center at 6:30 p.m. Friday, June 9. The Funeral Liturgy will be at St. Paul's Newman Center Saturday, June 10, at 2 p.m. Hawaiian shirts are welcomed and encouraged at both events.

Those that cannot attend in person can stream the Funeral Liturgy on Saturday at [www.newmancenter.org](http://www.newmancenter.org)

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Laramie High School TRACC.