



COACHING TO DEFEAT CANCER



COACHES VS. CANCER: THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

COACHING TO DEFEAT CANCER

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

You can learn a lot from basketball coaches. You can admire how they blend many different perspectives into one unit pushing toward a common goal, how they shut off negative emotions with a timeout to start moving again in a positive direction, how they possess the toughness and determination to overcome obstacles and achieve success.

You can see how the qualities displayed by basketball coaches are attributes that can help people overcome cancer.

Since the formation of Coaches vs. Cancer in 1993, college basketball coaches have inspired thousands of people in the fight against cancer – both through their efforts to raise funds to help the American Cancer Society to fight the disease and increase awareness and education, as well as their actions to successfully battle cancer on a more personal level. *Coaching To Defeat Cancer* chronicles the success stories of nine basketball coaches who hope to inspire others going through their own cancer journey. The book also includes tips and advice from 18 prominent college basketball coaches who have been touched by cancer in some way and have joined efforts to help save lives from the disease. All of the coaches featured have demonstrated the strength, courage, determination, and faith that can make the difference in winning life's greatest challenges.

The feature articles and the profiles of the coaches in this book were written and collected before and during the 2010-11 basketball season. The book's content is meant to serve as a source of inspiration for those who are dealing with issues related to cancer. This is not a book with medical advice on how to overcome the disease, but rather one containing tips that can help you approach your situation in the most positive light.

Many thanks to the coaches profiled in the book—the assistance they provided us is yet another example of their dedication to the fight against cancer. We'd also like to thank the sports information directors at these coaches' schools for their invaluable assistance.

A very special thank you to Jim Satalin and Anthony Marino from Coaches vs. Cancer, as both were instrumental in the development of *Coaching To Defeat Cancer*. Their support meant so much to the success of this project. Thanks to the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches for their contributions to the book, and for helping to make this a valuable resource.

Designer Natalie Couch did an outstanding job presenting the stories and advice of the coaches that we've profiled, and MomentumMedia editors Mike Phelps, RJ Anderson, and Tom Fleischman captured the passion of these coaches in writing many of the feature articles. Thanks to Pennie Small, Sharon Barbell, and Dave Wohlhueter for their contributions to the book.

Everyone can learn from these coaches. There are many valuable tips in this book that can be used by cancer patients—and anyone who is facing a major challenge or setback. We are so grateful to present this information to you and hope that it will be helpful to you, your family members, and your friends.

— Mark Goldberg, *Publisher*
MomentumMedia Sports Publishing

A FOREWORD FROM JAY BILAS



In the battle against cancer, nobody understands the teamwork and leadership necessary to win better than coaches. That is the primary reason that the Coaches vs. Cancer organization has been so successful. Coaches inherently understand that a close knit and focused team can accomplish much more together than any number of individuals can accomplish alone. And, coaches understand that, when taken together, the journey toward the ultimate destination is more meaningful.

I was extremely fortunate to play for Mike Krzyzewski at Duke. I was often referred to by the media as a “role player” when I played for Coach K, but I learned from him that we were all “role players” and each of us had very specific and very important roles to play if our team was to be successful. Some of my teammates had the role of leading scoring options; some had the role of setting up those leading scorers to get open shots; and some had the role of stopping the opponent's top scorers. Whatever our roles were on that team, we were all expected to be stars in our roles, and to do our jobs well and help our teammates do their jobs well.

Every day, there are medical professionals on the front lines battling this disease. Whether it is a research scientist, surgeon, physician, nurse or other caregiver, their roles are to be in the trenches fighting this disease every single day to find a cure and make the lives of cancer patients and their families better. Their roles are to be the stars.

Each of us has an important role, too, and we need to be stars in our roles. We need to provide the resources and support to those on the front lines of this fight, and we need to do it with our time and money. It may be only one or two days a year that we fulfill our roles by attending a Gala and providing our financial support, or it may be the time and effort we donate to help and support a friend or a local hospital. But, we need to be stars in our roles in the fight against cancer. And, we can be.

I have had the honor and privilege of hosting several Coaches vs. Cancer Galas around the country, including the Galas at Gonzaga, Syracuse, Notre Dame, Pittsburgh, Connecticut, and Wisconsin. At each Gala, I have seen first hand the incredible commitment of the coaches, their staffs, and their communities. And, I stand in awe of that commitment.

In my judgment, of all the great work done by coaches around the country, nobody has done a better job of capturing what this fight is all about than Gonzaga's Mark and Marcy Few. At their annual Gonzaga “BasketBall” Gala in Spokane, Washington, Mark and Marcy bring together a dedicated community and provide a weekend of laughter, tears and genuine family commitment in the fight against cancer. In its first year, Marcy Few stood before the formally dressed crowd at the Gala and asked all of those that had been touched by cancer, whether they are cancer survivors, family members or friends of those that had battled or are currently battling cancer, to stand up. Every person in attendance stood up. And, there was not a dry eye in the house.

In one simple gesture, Marcy Few demonstrated that cancer touches the lives of every single one of us, and clearly brought all of our roles into focus. Marcy had made us into a team. A winning team.

We all look forward to the very last Coaches vs. Cancer Gala, when we can celebrate our victory over this disease. That is the destination of this team, in this fight. And we will get there as one team, together.

— Jay Bilas, ESPN

DON MEYER

When the winningest coach in college basketball history discovered he had cancer after a serious car accident, he treated the news as a blessing and inspired others with his “healthy approach”.

THERE'S NO TELLING HOW LONG DON MEYER, FORMER HEAD MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH AT NORTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY, HAD CANCER BEFORE IT WAS DISCOVERED. There's no way of knowing just how long he lived a healthy life on the outside while his insides were riddled with tumors. But Meyer is thankful the cancer was eventually found, regardless of what it took to get there.

On Sept. 5, 2008, Meyer was driving his Toyota Prius along a stretch of road in South Dakota when he drifted across the center line and into the path of an oncoming semi-trailer truck. The frame of the car was crushed and inside, Meyer was clinging to life.

Every rib on his left side was broken. His diaphragm was torn away from the bone. His spleen was damaged beyond repair and his liver was lacerated. His left leg had also been severely injured.

In emergency surgery that night, Meyer's spleen and part of his small intestine were removed and it became evident that his leg would eventually have to

be amputated. That's also when doctors found that Meyer had cancer. The surgeon was more immediately concerned with the condition of Meyer's leg, so he asked his wife, Carmen, to hold off on telling her husband.

About a week later, she broke the news. Carmen said afterwards that hearing about the cancer, in addition to dealing with the near-fatal car accident, was like being hit by a two-by-four. While Don likely would have been forgiven had he broken down upon learning he had cancer, Carmen should have known how he would react.

“My first thought was, ‘How can we make this work for the most people? What can we do that will make this be something that could turn out to be good?’” Don Meyer says. “So we issued a statement.”

“It is now 10 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 12, 2008,” the statement read. “My trauma surgeon, David Strand, from Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, just told me they found carcinoid cancer in my liver and small bowels. The cancer was discovered during the emergency surgery after my wreck on September 5. What's great about this is I would not have known about the cancer had I not had the wreck. God has blessed me with the one thing we all need, which is truth. I can now fight with all of my ability. What I now ask is that everybody who believes in God would praise Him for this discovery and pray to Him to give me the strength, patience and peace to be a man of God on this journey. I am looking forward to coaching this season and am forever thankful to my team who saved my life and members of the coaching staff who have stepped up to the plate.”

While not many other people could have gone through what he did and still found a way to see “what's great about this,” Meyer has made a career out of doing what others couldn't. When he retired following the 2009-10 season, Meyer had compiled a 923-324 record as a head coach at three schools, making him the winningest men's coach ever who had at least one stint with an NCAA school.

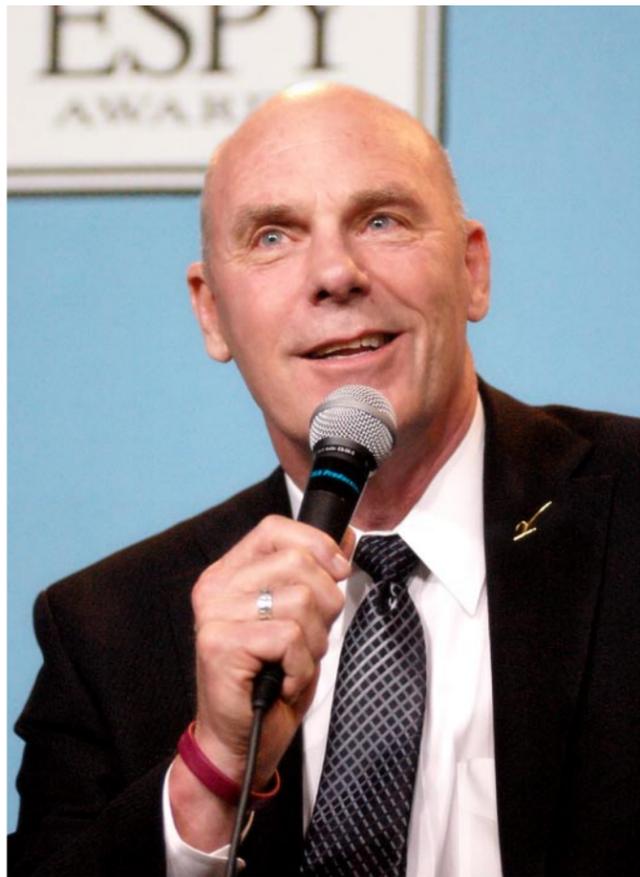
“There are two different things that people do when something happens to them,” Meyer says. “They either ask, ‘Why me?’ or they say, ‘What now?’ I think the ‘what now?’ approach is the healthier approach. After that, it's NBA—Next Best Action. If you do the next thing right, you'll be as close to perfect as any human being can be.”

“That's really the only way you can deal with it,” he continues. “Once something happens, it's pretty tough for it to un-happen. So you just have to deal with it the best you can and that's all anybody can expect out of you.”

For Meyer, that means leaning on friends and family, as well as faith. “There are a lot of stories about people who were praying and were prayed for, and somehow miraculously the cancer leaves,” he says. “I think the one thing cancer patients need to do most is pray.”

While Meyer was able to return to coach Northern State in 2008-09 and again the following season, the

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stresses of the job and the 16-hour workdays eventually caught up with him. “The second year after I’d had the wreck, in December, I knew I was going to die if I didn’t get out,” he says. “I couldn’t do the kind of job I wanted to do anymore, and I physically and emotionally didn’t have the stamina to do it. We would travel and everyone had to wait for me because I was a little slower. But I really believe the emotional turmoil was worse than the physical. The physical was tough, no doubt about it, but the emotional strain of constantly thinking about kids’ behavior, the way they’re acting on the court, if they’re improving or not improving, and what they’re doing in the classroom was too much.”

While Meyer retired from the hardwood, he’s far from done motivating young people and speaking his mind. In fact, he believes that’s one of the keys in dealing with his cancer.

“The biggest thing you can do is not think about cancer, not dwell on it,” he says. “The busier you are, the less you think about it. I think that’s better for you. John Wooden’s father once told him, ‘Don’t whine, don’t complain, and don’t make excuses.’ I think that’s great advice.”

“You’ve got to realize that when it’s time to go, it’s time to go,” Meyer continues. “But if you’re not gone, there’s something you should be doing. That’s how I look at it. Every day I have to do my job the best I can do it. I’ve got to be as effective as I can so every day is a ‘wow’ day for everyone else.”

When the doctors originally found the cancer in Meyer’s body, they were able to remove some, because it was on the parts of his body that were damaged in the accident and had to be removed anyway. He receives monthly shots that are supposed to help slow the growth of the tumors, but there are simply too many for surgery to remove them all. And once every six months, Meyer goes in for a CAT scan to see if the tumors are growing.

“I don’t know if I’m better, but I look better and I feel better,” he says. “You have to fight cancer without fighting



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it. You can’t be violent. You can’t be upset. You just have to accept what you have and deal with it the best you can.

“That’s why the faith thing is so important,” Meyer continues. “It helps you relieve that stress so you realize that peace is not the absence of troubles, trials, or torments, but feeling calm in the midst of them. You can deal with all that stuff because you’re in the eye of the storm and it’s peaceful in there.”



DAVE ROSE

An abundance of support gave the BYU coach hope that he could overcome a rare form of pancreatic cancer.



DAVE ROSE HATES TO LOSE. The head men's basketball coach at Brigham Young University says his aversion to losing was so strong, sometimes winning wasn't even that exciting. It was just a relief—he had done what he was supposed to do.

All that changed in early June 2009. Rose was on a flight to Las Vegas when he started feeling dizzy, then lightheaded. Eventually, Rose had to lie down and was brought oxygen. When the plane landed, paramedics were there to assist him and take him to the hospital. At the time, Rose thought nothing of it.

“The last thing I thought was that it would be anything serious,” Rose said. “I thought maybe I was dehydrated. I would get put on an IV, and move on.”

At the hospital, doctors found that Rose was bleeding internally and initially suspected a stomach ulcer. They performed an endoscopy to check for the ulcer, but didn't find one. Instead, they saw something much worse. After another round of tests, including a CAT scan, they confirmed a tumor. A biopsy revealed it to be malignant.

“That's when I realized this was probably going to be way more than just a quick trip to the hospital,” Rose said.

Rose underwent emergency surgery in Las Vegas to remove the tumor along with his spleen and a portion of his pancreas. Two days later, as a complication

of the surgery, he developed a pulmonary embolism—a blockage of the main artery to the lungs.

“It was really hard to breathe and very painful,” Rose said. “I could not figure out what was going on. The tumor had been removed, but I was going back to feeling the same way I'd felt when I was brought to the hospital. I went through all those tests for a day and they found out I had a blood clot that had passed through my heart and lodged in my lungs. I was really fortunate that it was caught in time.”

Rose spent a total of seven days in Las Vegas before he was flown to the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City. There, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. For two days, everyone around Rose believed he had the most fatal kind of pancreatic cancer.

“I knew that the prognosis for most people with pancreatic cancer is not good,” Rose said. “I started thinking about the people I knew personally or heard of who had pancreatic cancer—most of them had passed away. I really tried to hope that mine would be different and that's what I clung to. The days are long in the hospital and the nights are even longer.”

Fortunately, Rose's hopes were answered. He had a rare form of pancreatic cancer, a neuroendocrine tumor, which can be treated. It is still a serious disease and can continue to spread, but does so at a very slow rate. The other form, adenocarcinoma of the pancreas, typically kills within months.

Throughout his treatment, Rose tried to stay as positive as possible. “It's so difficult because your mind just kind of wanders,” he said. “One thing that gave me a lot of strength was knowing how many people are working really hard to try to solve the problem of cancer. Not only the doctors, researchers, and scientists, but also all the people who are raising money to continue to fund research.”

“Right now, somebody has a treatable form of cancer that was untreatable 10 years ago,” Rose continued. “So you just hope that researchers right now are working on something that will help you with your cancer. Hope is a big deal. It sounds a little bit abstract, but that's what you have. You have hope and you try to find the different areas in which your thought process can bring you to hope—where there are things happening that are positive.”

Much of that hope came from Rose's family and others who were close to him during this difficult time. “It's so important for the family members of

“**One thing that gave me a lot of strength was knowing how many people are working really hard to try to solve the problem of cancer. Not only the doctors, researchers, and scientists, but also all the people who are raising money to continue to fund research.**”



someone who has cancer to understand that the patient's strength comes from their support," he said. "Their love, their letters, their words of encouragement, and their positive thoughts give the patient a lot of strength. There were so many people praying for me and relaying thoughts to me through cards or letters or e-mails. As I read those positive messages, it would give me hope and give me more strength. I think that's something that's really important in the process.

"When you get discouraged, your body changes," Rose continued. "You don't fight as hard. You have to create a positive experience in a really negative environment. That's difficult."

Rose was discharged from Huntsman on June 16, 2009. His oncologist did not recommend chemotherapy or radiation because the surgery to remove the visible cancer was successful. Since then, Rose has been scanned every six months for tumors, and each time the tests for cancer have come back negative.

"Any time I talk about my experience, I have to mention the support that I received from so many people," Rose said. "Not only from people you'd expect like my family, BYU fans, and the coaching fraternity, but fans from rival schools in our conference, student body presidents and officers from other universities. I was really pleasantly surprised at the goodness of people all over. I appreciated the support and well wishes they gave me. It gave me a lot of strength and hope to get through it."

Although Rose has not needed any further treatment, his oncologist did prescribe a healthier lifestyle and diet. He was told that long term, he could develop further health issues if he doesn't take care of himself.



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"Before, I would just lose myself in this job for months at a time," Rose said. "Now, I have strict things I need to do as far as when I sleep, eat, and exercise. Those things have become a much bigger priority for me. But this experience hasn't changed my competitive desire at all. I work just as hard and I'm just as focused."

Rose returned to the court in time to coach the Cougars in the 2009-10 season and lead them to the second round of the NCAA tournament, losing only six games. While he hasn't lost his competitive edge and still prefers not to lose, he now handles it differently.

"Previously, I had never given much thought to how to deal with losses," Rose said. "I really believe I have new insight where I appreciate opportunities more."

"In the locker room after games, I now think to myself that I'm really thankful I had a chance to coach in that game," he continued. "I look at the things we could do better, and I look forward to practice the next day. That wasn't always the situation for me."

“It’s so important for the family members of someone who has cancer to understand that the patient’s strength comes from their support. Their love, their letters, their words of encouragement, and their positive thoughts give the patient a lot of strength.”

JOE MARELLE

In twice taking on the fight to continue living, this Georgia coach discovered he had what he needed to win the battle.



AS A HEAD BASKETBALL COACH FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS, including 19 seasons at Duluth High School in Georgia, Joe Marelle had a lot of experience in what he considered were pressure situations. Coaching a tied game with less than a minute to go. Drawing up a last-second play during a timeout to win a game. Watching the opponent rally from a large deficit to take the lead.

Marelle *thought* he knew pressure. But during a stretch of two and a half years, he experienced pressure in its cruelest form.

In October 1998, Marelle was sitting in the office of an oncologist, waiting for the results to see if he had cancer. The doctor came into the office, grabbed a prescription pad and wrote: “You have stage IV non-Hodgkins lymphoma. You have six months to live. Please take the following 30 pills a day.”

Then in February 2001, Marelle was waiting in the office of another cancer specialist. The doctor told him there was good news—his lymphoma was in remission. But the joy of this tremendous news was instantly shattered with the following announcement: the many radiation treatments to fight the lymphoma had debilitated his immune system, and Marelle had contracted acute leukemia. He had 30 days to receive an organ transplant to have any hope of surviving.

In twice taking on life’s greatest challenge—the fight to continue living—Marelle eventually discovered he had what he needed to take on this battle and win his biggest game. His experiences as a coach and in sports were a major advantage in handling this true pressure.

“I have learned throughout my coaching career that if I work hard and focus on accomplishing the small steps rather than worrying about the final results, the outcome will be to my satisfaction and I will have won in the greater scheme of life even if I have lost on the scoreboard,” said Marelle. “When you’re a coach or athlete and you win a championship, you realize that the championship was really a work-in-progress. What you

went through during the pre-season, in the regular-season and then during the post-season enabled you to win a title. I treated the stages of my cancer treatment as the phases of a championship season, and it kept me on track to accomplishing my ultimate goal.

“I received a lot of help along the way from so many people. With help from the resources provided to me, I have been able to overcome my illness and return to the greatest game in the world—basketball—and play the greatest game in the world—the game of life.”

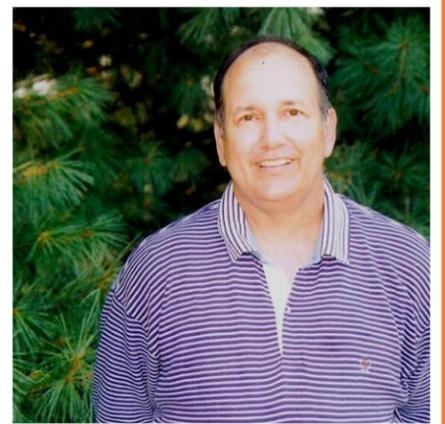
Marelle was named head basketball coach at Duluth High School in 1981, and he also served as the school’s athletic director from 1991 to 2001. During his tenure as coach, his teams won four Georgia state sub-region championships, and in 1985 he led his team to the semifinals of the Georgia Class AA tournament. Marelle was named the Gwinnett County Coach of the Year in 1985, 1986 and 1995. While coaching, Marelle often went to the NCAA Men’s Basketball Final Four and the National Association of Basketball Coaches Convention held in conjunction with the championships. He was at the 1998 Final Four in San Antonio when he started feeling intense pain in his sides and decided to leave the event early.

At first, Marelle’s doctor told him that he was suffering from mononucleosis and he was instructed to allow for a natural recovery. But as time passed, he was only feeling worse and his spleen became enlarged. Six months later, in October before the start of the 1998-99 season, he went to see an oncologist who gave him the diagnosis that he had stage four lymphoma.

That was Marelle’s first experience with the word “cancer.” He had a regional athletic director meeting scheduled for that evening after he was told of his illness, and Marelle decided to press on, and attend that dinner.

“The whole time I drove to the dinner, I kept staring at that prescription pad, hoping it was just a dream,” Marelle recalled. “I drank a glass of water at the dinner and couldn’t eat. When I got home, I told my wife and my kids. At first, they thought I was joking. Then I started to break down and we all ended up shedding some tears. The news put us back on our heels. When you don’t know much about cancer and you think it’s something that affects other people, you say to yourself, ‘I don’t smoke and I don’t do a lot of crazy things—why me?’

“ When you’re a coach or athlete and you win a championship, you realize that the championship was really a work-in-progress. What you went through during the pre-season, in the regular-season and then during the post-season enabled you to win a title. I treated the stages of my cancer treatment as the phases of a championship season, and it kept me on track to accomplishing my ultimate goal.”



But my wife, being the strong person that she is, said, ‘You’re going to beat this thing.’”

Coaches are inherently controlling people. One of the first tough lessons that Marelle had to learn was that he was not in total control of the situation and that he needed to put his faith in others. He went with Dr. Anthony Landis of Lawrenceville, Ga., who used a new, unproven drug to treat the lymphoma. He underwent massive chemotherapy treatments, and had his spleen removed.

On the court, Marelle let his actions lead the way, and the players responded to his leadership. The team surpassed all expectations and won regional titles while making it all the way to the round of 16 in the state Class AAA tournament.

“ One of the things that can help people with cancer is having something that you really look forward to doing, so that you can focus on that while the treatments are going on. I guess it’s like saying, ‘I have unfinished business left before I die.’”

At one point during that season, Marelle lost his hair because of the chemo treatments. “When I looked in the mirror, I saw a different person,” he remembered. “I didn’t have my hair, my skin color was different. It had a way of making you feel self-conscious.”

Former NBA and Georgia Tech star Mark Price was working with Marelle as a volunteer assistant coach. After practice one day, Price and the other two assistant coaches snuck out with the players so that the team members could get their heads shaved as a way to support their coach. “The chemistry and the way the players and assistant coaches felt about me really helped me get through the chemo treatments,” Marelle said.

Marelle never thought for one second about stepping down as coach when he was first diagnosed with cancer. “One of the things that can help people with cancer is having something that you really look forward to doing, so that you can focus on that while the treatments are going on,” he said. “I guess it’s like saying, ‘I have unfinished business left before I die.’ For me, I wanted to coach more games. “When you are going through treatment, you have physical fatigue but you also have emotional fatigue. Basketball for me was something that kept me motivated through the treatments. Without it, I don’t know if I’d be alive today. I know there were people who said ‘he shouldn’t be coaching...he’s too sick... he can’t handle it.’ But those people don’t understand that when you take somebody’s motivation to live away,

then you take away the reason for them to compete for life.

“The kids that I coached were not the greatest athletes in the world, but they had the greatest attitudes and their perspective on life allowed me to have a different perspective on life,” he continued. “I became a parasite. I fed on their strength and their feelings about certain things, including myself, which gave me an extra advantage.”

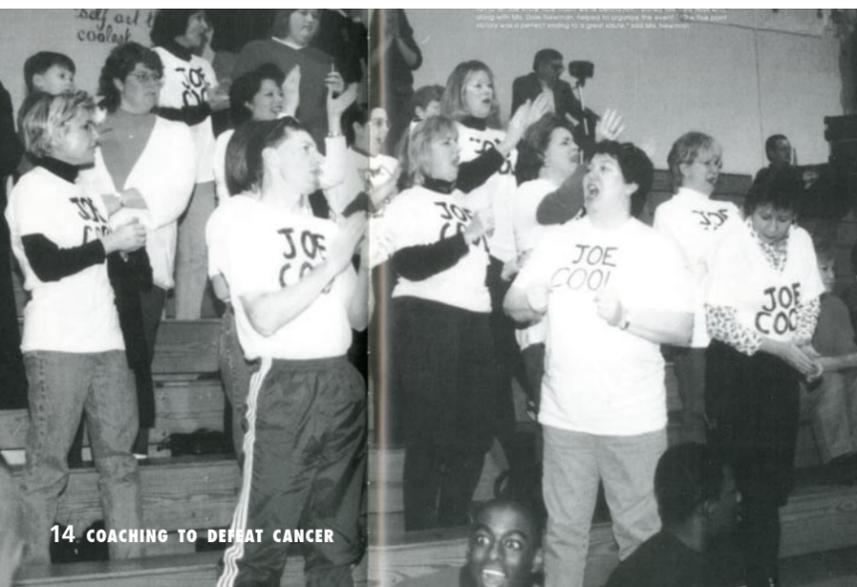
While he was going through his intense radiation treatments, Marelle would focus regularly on the joy he received from coaching his team. He would play back in his mind the special times he had enjoyed with his family, and dream about the future successes he envisioned both for himself and for his wife and children. Playing these positive images in his head over and over pulled him through the rough times.

“I would tell someone who’s battling cancer to write down the five to ten things that you look forward to doing with the rest of your life. In other words, your future should be the focus. For example, ‘I want to see my grandchildren,’ or ‘I want to take that trip.’ You’ve got to find something to look forward to that will give you strength. You want it to draw you like a magnet. If you don’t try to self-motivate yourself through positive thoughts, cancer will win because it’s not easily defeated.”

It took every ounce of strength and discipline that Marelle had to deal with the stunning news that his condition had gone from lymphoma to leukemia. And it took that same strength when he learned that a transplant would have to work properly to keep him from succumbing to cancer. Again, there was a note pad with sobering statistics. “I had to go to a new treatment center, and work with a new doctor,” Marelle said. “And this doctor said the goal is to get to a point where I could accept a bone marrow transplant, and that we really had a month to perform the transplant for it to work properly. He gave me the percentages for surviving the period of breaking you down to be in a position for a transplant, and the percentages of getting you to the point where you will live after getting the bone marrow transplant.”

The doctors could not find a perfect match for the transplant. But there was an experimental option; the transplant could be performed if the donor was a close relative who at least had a majority of Marelle’s blood antigens. His oldest son, Joey, was found to have the closest bone match.

Still, the prognosis was so slim that Marelle was advised to plan his funeral. Marelle’s insurance company agreed to cover his unconventional transplant but because it was so new, the company would not agree to cover this type of treatment in the future if Marelle’s transplant proved to be unsuccessful.



But, with the odds stacked against him in this ultimate challenge, Marelle relied on his competitive nature.

“I’ve been a basketball coach for a long time and I believe in the use of statistics,” he said. But in terms of basketball, I also believe that statistics don’t show you what a player is worth. In my case, the stats that were being quoted to me were not about me personally. I’m not a stat, I’m a person. I considered myself a ‘stat breaker.’ The fact that the insurance company handled my transplant the way they did gave me extra motivation. You’re telling me that I have to win and if I win, someone else gets the chance to win, then count me all in.

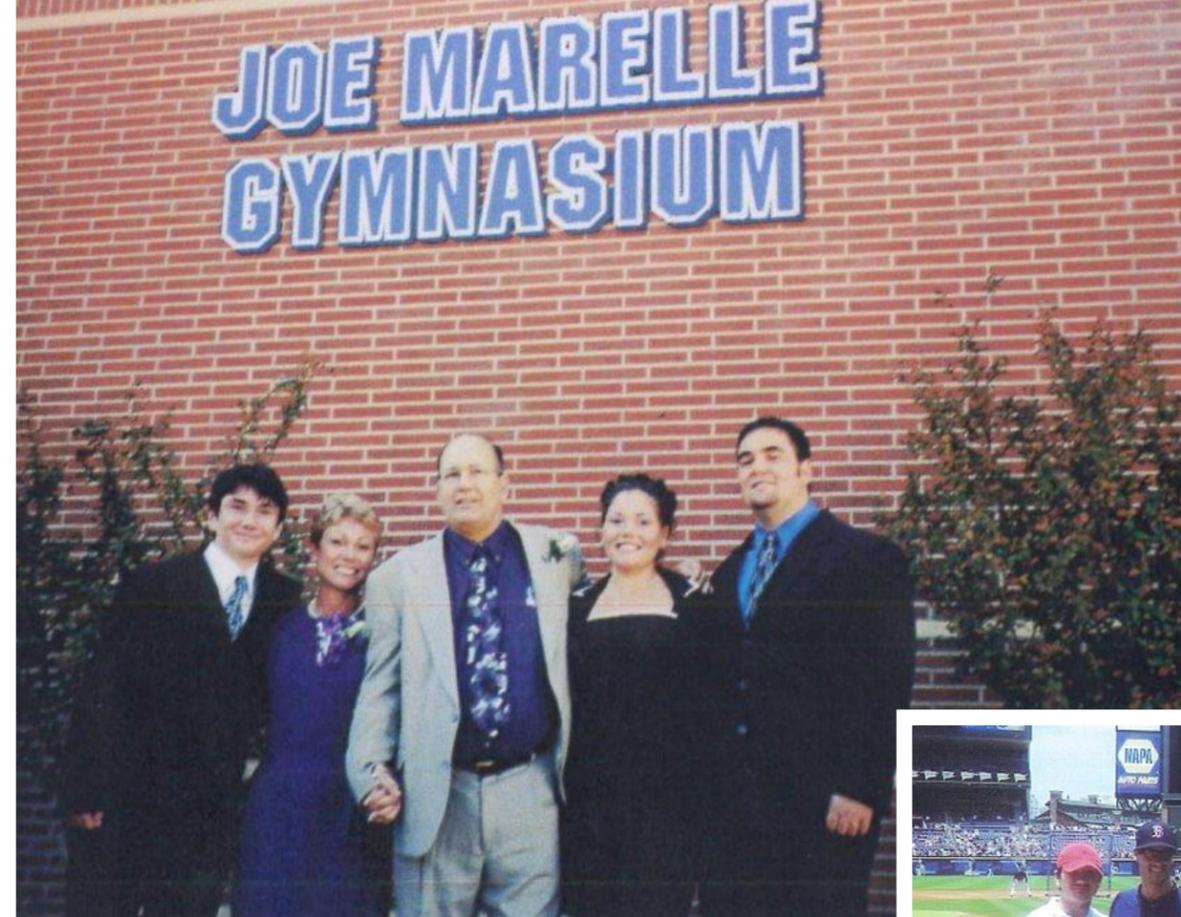
“ I would tell someone who’s battling cancer to write down the five to ten things that you look forward to doing with the rest of your life. In other words, your future should be the focus. For example, ‘I want to see my grandchildren,’ or ‘I want to take that trip.’ You’ve got to find something to look forward to that will give you strength. You want it to draw you like a magnet. If you don’t try to self-motivate yourself through positive thoughts, cancer will win because it’s not easily defeated.”

“The news about my leukemia and need for a transplant set me back. But somebody had told me earlier that I had six months to live and I had beaten that. So nobody was going to tell me that I couldn’t win my next challenge.”

Marelle’s transplant, which was performed at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, was successful and during his recovery, including times when there were setbacks and he was in the hospital, he was the recipient of many gestures of support. His neighbor, Eric Hanada, devoted a lot of time to serve as a caretaker, assisting Marelle in countless ways. The community of Duluth embraced the Marelle family, raising money at basketball games and through other events to help offset the medical expenses. And Brian McCann and Nick Green, both of whom played basketball for Marelle and have gone on to enjoy successful careers as Major League Baseball players, frequently visited Marelle in the hospital.

Rep. Brooks Coleman initiated a resolution in the Georgia State House of Representatives to commend Marelle for his outstanding coaching career and for inspiring so many with his approach to battling cancer. Shortly after he had stepped down as athletic director and coach at Duluth High School to focus on his illness, the school announced that they were going to honor him by naming its new gymnasium after him. The school district does not typically bestow such an honor on someone still living, but through the efforts of parents and students at Duluth High School, an exception was made.

Many prominent basketball coaches and coaching organizations also took actions to honor Marelle and show their support of his battle to defeat cancer. He received a basketball autographed by Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, inscribed with the words “Keep Fighting, Joe.” Marelle was named the Coaches vs. Cancer National Coach of the Year in 2004. While he was too sick to attend the awards banquet, his determination was praised by Maryland head coach Gary Williams and others. John Calipari,



then the head coach at the University of Memphis, sent him a Memphis T-shirt and coaching shorts to let him know he was in Calipari’s prayers.

Whenever he could, no matter how low he felt, Marelle passed on these gifts of support by helping others. He made it part of his recovery protocol. The more he offered a kind word or reached out to someone else, the more he helped himself get better.

“I tell other cancer patients to do something good for somebody every day,” Marelle said. “It doesn’t have to be big—it can be as simple as opening the door or saying good morning to someone. If that person says good morning back and tells you how he or she is doing, listen to what that person is saying. It took me having a setback with cancer to realize that I haven’t paid as much attention to other people as I should have. And as I started doing things for others, I realized it was giving me strength to do more for myself.”

One of Marelle’s most memorable acts was for Larry Shyatt, then the head coach at Clemson University. Marelle had gotten to know Shyatt when he took teams to several of his Clemson summer camps. Shyatt was under tremendous pressure to win, and he was in the midst of an eight-game losing streak during the 2000-01 season. Marelle wrote Shyatt a letter in which he told him about his situation and urged Shyatt and his players to keep fighting hard just as he was doing with his bout with cancer. Shyatt, who is now the associate head coach for Billy Donovan at the University of Florida, read the letter to his

team. A few days later, Clemson upset number-one ranked North Carolina—just the second time in school history that the Tigers had beaten the country's top-ranked team.

One week later, Clemson was playing Georgia Tech in Atlanta and Shyatt planned to give the game ball from that victory to Marelle.

But Marelle was back in the hospital with a blood infection. Shyatt was determined to return the kindness so he tracked down the hospital where Marelle was being treated, and after the game with Georgia Tech, Shyatt and the entire Clemson team came to Marelle's hospital room to present him with the ball.

Marelle overcame his battle with leukemia and returned to coaching in 2005 when he accepted the head coaching position at Mount Pisgah Christian School. His youngest son, Tony, transferred there to play for him, as a way to make up for their lost time together. Marelle guided the team to a 21-1 record and a state championship that season. As a result, he was named the 2005-06 Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) Coach of the Year.

Marelle remained at Mount Pisgah for two more seasons. Then a coach who used to compete against Marelle asked him to be his assistant coach at Greater Atlanta Christian School. Last year, the squad finished 32-1 and won a state championship.



So Marelle is back to doing what he does best: leading young adults and showing them courage and determination through example. When he stepped down at Duluth to devote his full attention to battling cancer, he was hopeful he'd return to coaching somebody. When that moment arrived in 2005, it was a culmination of all the positive imagery and dreams that got Marelle through his illness.

"When you return to something that you were so used to doing almost all of your life after being told that it has ended for you, and you're able to orchestrate it to the way you want to do it, there's no greater feeling in the world," Marelle said. "Basketball has allowed me to learn about people, and what it takes to win. But more important it's allowed me to show kids that this can be a vehicle to get an education or

construct your character as a future adult. I'm so blessed to be back coaching and doing what I love to do."

Marelle's story continues to serve as an inspiration to his players and their parents, members of his community, and hundreds of others in the basketball world who have drawn strength from it. He had the will and desire to compete and put all of his strength and emotion into one of life's greatest challenges, and the faith that no matter what happened, he would be blessed and he would inspire others.

Marelle gained this perspective through his involvement in sports, but he knows you don't have to have a sports background to have his outlook in taking on cancer.

"Cancer is like a tennis game in a way. You may be down 40-Love and it appears to be all over for you. Then, all of a sudden, a light comes on and it's deuce in the game, and then you win. Focusing on dreams, focusing on family, it all comes into play. You want to stay in touch with what's deep in your heart that keeps you going each day. Because if you don't, then you have basically given up.

"You've got to have dreams. If you don't continue to have dreams, then you're only defeating yourself. If you continue to follow your dreams, you're going to succeed.

"Most people have great expectations for their time on this earth. They want to do the best they can do in whatever they undertake. For anybody who comes down with cancer, you have to establish a game plan. What kind of treatment are you going to pursue? What are the typical results of that treatment? And when you get in this game, it's the biggest game you're going to ever play—it's the game of life."

“ In my case, the stats that were being quoted to me were not about me personally. I’m not a stat, I’m a person. I considered myself a ‘stat breaker.’ ”



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ED DECHELLIS

The Navy coach is a cancer survivor. However, after having lost both parents to the disease, he realizes the battle is not fully over and requires a lifetime of vigilance.

FOR ED DECHELLIS, HEAD MEN'S COACH AT THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY, IT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE.

Seven years ago, in his second season as head coach at Penn State University, and just 45-years-old, DeChellis was faced with an opponent no coach is ever prepared for.

He had gone to bed after a challenging and fulfilling workout that included a three-mile run and some weight lifting. After a great night's sleep, he hopped out of bed to start his day. In the bathroom, he was startled by something very wrong. DeChellis was urinating a steady stream of blood and had difficulty making it stop.

He immediately called the Penn State team physician who met him at the school's

athletic training room. There, the doctor told DeChellis to drink some water so they could take a urine sample. "I said, 'Doc, there is no sample—it's all blood,'" recalls DeChellis. "We did it anyway, and sure enough I urinated straight blood."

DeChellis headed directly to the local hospital where he had an MRI and a CAT scan. After the tests concluded, he went back to work having no idea what to expect. That afternoon, the team physician visited DeChellis at his office and closed the door behind him. "When he did that, I knew he didn't have good news," DeChellis says. "I was hoping he would tell me it was a kidney stone or maybe an infection that caused the bleeding, but he put the test results down in front of me and told me I had a cancerous tumor growing on my bladder."

The news was an abrupt and disturbing reminder that shook DeChellis to his core. For all the triumphs and victories DeChellis had experienced in his life, it was cancer that had delivered his life's biggest blow nearly 25 years earlier when, at 52 years old, DeChellis's father, Richard, lost his life after a two-year battle with stomach cancer. At the time of his father's passing, Ed DeChellis was just 21, and a graduate student at Penn State. Now 45, with a wife, two kids and a job he loved, DeChellis was forced to stare down his father's killer—and his own mortality.

But luckily, Ed DeChellis's cancer was caught early on. He was diagnosed with a stage I tumor that doctors were able to remove surgically. Still, he is far from being out of the woods. Even though DeChellis is currently cancer-free, he must undergo vigorous testing to ensure the bladder cancer doesn't reappear or travel to the prostate or kidneys, as it is sometimes prone to do.

So every six months DeChellis has a bladder scope, and once a year doctors scan looking for cancer cells. "The tests are not anything I look forward to, but I know that they're necessary," he says. "I'm fortunate to have had good checkups so far, but it's forced me to live my life six months at a time. Vigilance in lifestyle and following early detection practices are two of the few tools man has in the fight against cancer."

"Each time I prepare myself for the tests, I hold my breath and wonder if this will be the time when they find cancerous cells in my urine or another tumor," he adds. "And I know that it will probably be like that for the rest of my life."

As uncomfortable and stressful as the testing process is, DeChellis knows there is no other option. And he knows how dark the alternative can be.

When cancer blindsided his father, DeChellis watched the disease rob a man of his life and leave a family stretched very thin. Along with his mother, Audrey, DeChellis was Richard's primary caregiver when he could no longer care for himself. DeChellis spent those summers helping look after his father, and in the fall, he got a student-teaching assignment near his hometown to assist with his father's care.

"It's an all-consuming 24-hour a day, seven-day-a-week disease—Dad was bed-ridden and couldn't get up on his own," says DeChellis. "It was an eye-opening experience being so young and having to bathe my father and pick him up and take him to the bathroom."



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“There’s nothing you can do or read that prepares you for something like that,” he adds. “I had to grow up pretty quick at age 21.”

Still, DeChellis and his mother persevered, often working in shifts to provide Richard’s round-the-clock care. They found temporary respite in taking short breaks to get away from the disease to decompress, even if it was for just a little while. “I would tell my mother to take an hour or two off for herself—go to the grocery store or whatever—just to feel a little normal again,” recalls DeChellis. “When it was my turn to take a break, I would go shoot some hoops or get a workout in for an hour or so. That hour away from the disease—and its smell—provided just enough relief to help us get through those extremely trying times.”

As the cancer worsened, Richard incurred massive hospital and treatment bills. Eventually, his mother was forced to sell the family home and rent a one-bedroom apartment where she lived with DeChellis and his younger brother. It underscored a hidden casualty that many families face in the fight against cancer. “Losing our family’s main breadwinner was very difficult to overcome,” says DeChellis. “When cancer strikes a family, it can be devastating in so many ways.”

The disease further devastated DeChellis and his family in 2006 when Audrey was diagnosed with liver cancer. Residing in Western Pennsylvania, Audrey was three and a half hours away from Happy Valley. Still, despite the distance and the demands of his job, DeChellis visited his mother as often as possible. During the season, he would drive to visit her after a game, arriving late at night just so he could have breakfast with her before returning to campus in time for a 3 o’clock practice. And after every practice, on his drive home, DeChellis was sure to call his mother just to check in.

“However, I still felt very guilty about not always being able to be there, but that’s where my wife Kim stepped in,” DeChellis says. “She and my mom were quite close, and Kim would drive and stay with my mom for three or four days at a time when I couldn’t be around.”

Within a year, the cancer spread to Audrey’s pancreas and she took a turn for the worse, passing away on Christmas Day 2007. “She suffered for six months. It wasn’t pleasant for her, and that’s the part that really hurts—seeing your loved

ones suffer knowing the outcome isn’t likely to be very good,” DeChellis says. “You’re hoping for a miracle, but those are far and few between. So you try to give comfort as best you can and spend as much time with them as possible.”

Watching his parents succumb and living with his own disease has taught DeChellis a number of lessons and created a perspective steeped in urgency. “My dad was always one who saved his money and said he would do what he wanted down the road after he retired,” says DeChellis. “For example, we didn’t really take very many family vacations because he wanted to save the money and do it when he had more time.

“Well, with my family, I do everything when I want to do it. I’m not waiting,” DeChellis continues. “If my wife or girls want to do something, we do it. I don’t want to put something off and say I’ll do it down the road, because I don’t know what down the road holds for me. I try to do as much as I can, now.”

Part of this commitment to living in the now includes maintaining an appreciation for the positive elements in his life. “I’ve been blessed with a great wife, great kids and I’ve done some things in my career that I never thought I’d do,” he says. “So I try to do the best I can to give back. I’m thankful for what I have and try to live my life the best I can.”

Evidence of DeChellis’s charity can be found in his work with Coaches vs. Cancer. The 2006 National Coaches vs. Cancer Man of the Year, he and Kim take a hands-on role in leading their local chapter, raising money for grassroots initiatives. Whether it’s helping organize a celebrity golf tournament, setting up a reverse car auction, or planning a student fun run, the DeChellis’s helped the Penn State chapter of Coaches vs. Cancer raise over \$1.2 million—money that is re-directed back into the community to help families cope with the disease.

“We try to give people the opportunity to get the best medical care they can here locally, and if they need to travel to get better care we try to take care of their travel expenses,” DeChellis says. “What I’ve found about cancer is that it doesn’t discriminate—young, old, male, female, black, white, rich, poor—cancer doesn’t exclude. It can happen to anybody at any time. I just hope that one day we can figure out how to beat it.”



“That’s the part that really hurts—seeing your loved ones suffer and knowing the outcome isn’t likely to be very good. You’re hoping for a miracle, but those are far and few between. So you try to give comfort as best you can and spend as much time with them as possible.”



NORM STEWART

Fate brought cancer into the life of the former Missouri coach, and his experience led to the formation of Coaches vs. Cancer.



TWENTY-TWO YEARS AGO, NORM STEWART KNEW HE WOULD BE MAKING A TRIP TO THE HOSPITAL in Columbia, Mo., during the middle of his team's basketball season to deal with a cancer-related issue. He just didn't know back then that the trip would be for his own welfare.

On February 8, 1989, Norm Stewart was en route to Norman, Okla., with his University of Missouri men's basketball team to play the University of Oklahoma the next evening in a battle of two teams ranked in the top five in the country. Stewart's wife, Virginia, was in the hospital for exploratory surgery, which included precautionary procedures to make sure there were no cancer-related issues. Stewart would be going right to the hospital when he returned from the trip to be with her and make sure everything was okay.

As the plane carrying the members of the Missouri basketball team was getting closer to its destination, Stewart felt dizzy and nauseous. He passed out and the pilot made an

emergency landing into Oklahoma City.

The doctors and emergency staff on hand assured Stewart that his collapse wasn't related to heart problems. But the doctors saw that his hemoglobin count was low, and after a one-night stay in Oklahoma City, Stewart was transported to his hometown hospital in Columbia, Mo., for further tests.

Norm and Virginia Stewart laid in a hospital room at Boone County Hospital waiting to hear results of exploratory procedures and tests that could change

their life together. Virginia's test results for cancer were first: they were negative. The Stewarts let out a huge sigh of relief. However, later in the day, Norm's tests were positive. He was diagnosed with colon cancer. Stewart collapsed on the plane because he also had bleeding ulcers, which were affected by the change in altitude.

The bleeding ulcers may have saved his life. "If I hadn't passed out from the bleeding ulcers, the colon cancer probably would have gone undiscovered for a while. It would have spread beyond the one lymph node that was already cancerous. Perhaps then I wouldn't have been diagnosed until I was at stage III or IV."

Indeed, the situation on the airplane was a blessing, and not just because Stewart was able to treat his cancer at such an early stage. Stewart was able to re-focus his goals for life and be a major force behind the Coaches vs. Cancer Program, which has evolved into a nation-wide effort by college and high school basketball coaches to provide assistance and inspiration to all people facing cancer through fundraising activities and events raising awareness for prevention and treatment of the illness.

As soon as he was diagnosed with colon cancer, Stewart took a leave of absence from his head coaching position at Missouri and underwent chemo treatments four days a week and had surgery to remove a portion of his colon. He relied upon the preparation and organizational skills that he crafted as a hall of fame coach to help him through the process.

"When you are dealing with cancer, you have to prepare yourself for surgery or chemo treatments," he said. "I followed the same philosophy I had during my coaching career. I would prepare the team for achieving positive results before we played games. I would say something like, 'After we win the game, we're going to take tomorrow off and prepare for our next opponent.' While I was receiving treatments, I took the same approach. I would prepare for what was going to occur after the treatment and how I was going to feel.

"When chemo treatments started, I would treat myself to something that I enjoy and I really believe in this situation, simple pleasure was better. For me, I love tuna salad and my wife and support group would make me a tuna salad sandwich and milkshake to have after my treatment was over. I needed to gain back the weight I had lost, so this helped me in that regard. And from a mental

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“I tell cancer patients to do something like this. Give yourself a reward for getting through a chemo treatment. Then you don’t think about the chemo, you think about the reward.”

Stewart pretty much stepped away from the Missouri program during the six months of chemotherapy. He missed the final 14 games while the Tigers played inspired basketball for their coach and went on to win the Big Eight conference post-season tournament, earn two victories in the NCAA championships before losing to Syracuse in the Sweet Sixteen, and set a then-school record for most victories in a season with a 29-8 final record. He even missed the team banquet that year.

“I was a college basketball coach 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” Stewart said. “But when you have cancer, you are fighting for survival and your occupation needs to take a back seat for obvious reasons. You are facing your own mortality for the first time.”

One time Stewart felt the need to reconnect with his players was after the three-point loss to Syracuse in the Sweet Sixteen of the 1990 NCAA tournament. “I was at the Lake of Ozarks watching the game with a friend, Bill Bennett,” he recalled. “As soon as the game was over, I said to Bill, ‘I am going to fly back to Columbia to speak with my team, and Bill said, ‘I’ll drive you.’ I arrived in town just as the team was getting back. I had the chance to tell the players how proud I was of them and how much I admired them, and I think it helped them get over a very tough loss and way to end the season.”

Stewart relied on his support group of family and friends to help him through his treatment and recovery process. “Like any illness, you have such a better chance to recover if you have a close family and tight group of friends,” he said. “It starts first with family, and as a basketball coach, your family extends to your players and closest fans. I was very fortunate to have such a great support network.”

Fans from many communities reached out to Stewart to show their support. Two gestures particularly stood out. He received a poster from several hundred citizens of St. Joseph, Mo. and players, coaches, and fans from rival Kansas State University created and signed a get-well banner.

One person who reached out to Stewart was one of his contemporaries in the 1970s and ‘80s, former University of Kentucky head coach Joe B. Hall. “He had the same diagnosis and surgery that I had,” Stewart said. “We even laughed about

it, that we got the coach’s form of cancer. When we finished talking, Joe said, ‘Let me give you some advice: the next time you talk on the phone again about your situation, you be the one who makes the call. Don’t wait for people to come to you. You select the people with whom you want to share your thoughts about cancer, and what you want to talk about. Don’t have the attitude that you want to do it alone and not burden anyone.’ I relied upon this advice many times during my treatments, and it helped me immensely.”

Stewart fully recovered from cancer in time to resume his head coaching reins before the 1989-90 season, and would go on to coach 10 more seasons. The Tigers won 20 or more games six of those years and two league championships. In the 1993-94 season, Missouri went 14-0 in conference play and 28-4 overall, and made it to the Elite Eight where the Tigers lost to Arizona. Stewart was named the Associated Press Coach of the Year.

“I really feel I did some of my best coaching during the first four or five seasons after I returned from cancer,” Stewart said. “The experience had changed my outlook on life.”

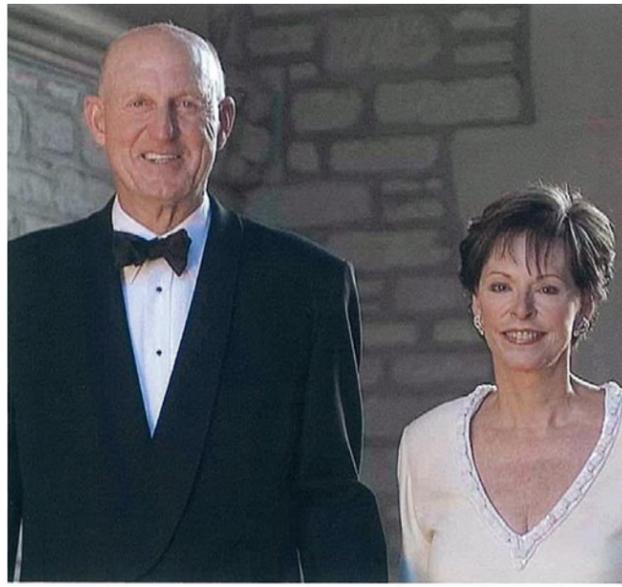
Stewart finished with a 731-375 career coaching record and received a tremendous honor in 2007 when he was inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame. “I love basketball and I’m so proud that I got to coach for 43 years,” he said. “But to go through my cancer experience and survive it—and to have your friends get cancer and know what they’re going through—it puts everything in a new perspective. You get it when you touch your own mortality.”



Stewart’s greatest accomplishment is his role in creating Coaches vs. Cancer and turning it into one of the most successful programs for the American Cancer Society. The seeds for Coaches vs. Cancer were planted in 1991 when Jerry Quick, vice president of the Columbia, Mo. chapter of the ACS, asked the Missouri coach about putting on a promotion that would raise money for the organization. Stewart immediately said yes, and they created a “three-point attack” in which local businesses and individuals would contribute money for every three-point field goal basket made by Missouri during the 1991-92 season.

Stewart contributed to the cause by sharing his experiences with others who were battling cancer—visiting them in the hospital or talking to them on the phone. “It became a

“I tell cancer patients to do something like this. Give yourself a reward for getting through a chemo treatment. Then you don’t think about the chemo, you think about the reward.”



positive mission for me,” he said. “I listened to their worries and concerns and shared my experiences to show them that it’s possible to overcome cancer.”

In 1993, Stewart went to the leaders of the National Association of Basketball Coaches to take his American Cancer Society fundraising program to a national level and involve all members of the NABC. Coaches vs. Cancer was born as a collaboration between the American Cancer Society and the NABC, and basketball coaches from all around the country got involved right at the beginning. The three-point shot promotions evolved into basketball tournaments, golf outings, banquets and galas, in which the proceeds from these events went

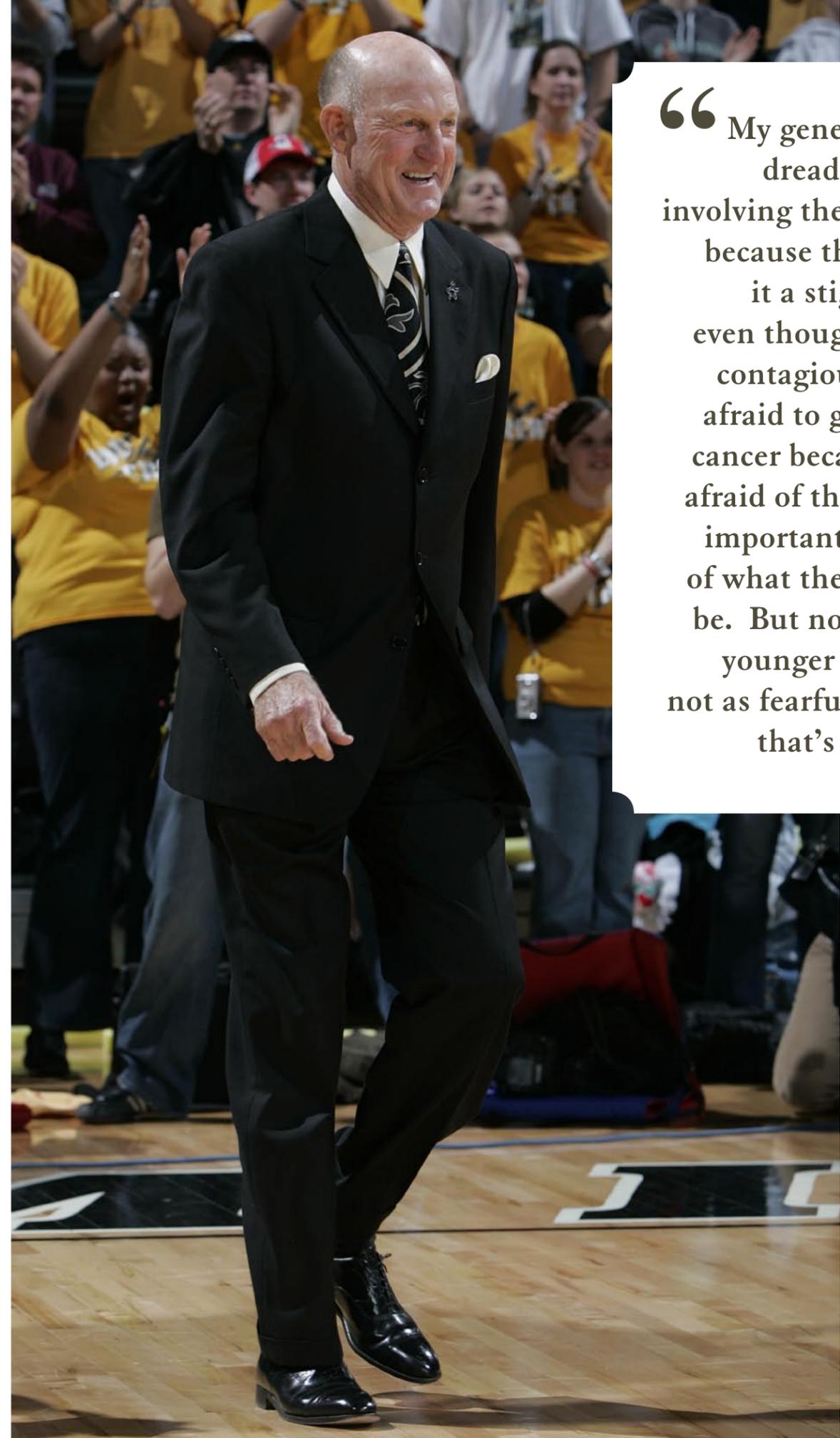
toward research, education and preventative programs to help save lives from cancer. Coaches vs. Cancer has raised more than \$50 million since its inception.

“We’ve helped so much with the awareness factor,” Stewart said. “But even so, coaches are so competitive and we want to raise more money and do more to put an end to cancer.”

“Still, we’ve heightened the awareness about the importance of cancer prevention and early detection,” he continued. “My generation used to dread conversations involving the word ‘cancer’ because they considered it a stigma and some even thought it might be contagious. They were afraid to get checked for cancer because they were afraid of the test, or more importantly were afraid of what the results might be. But now generations younger than mine are not as fearful about it, and that’s a major step.”

“There should be no one dying of colon cancer today. If someone in your family has had colon cancer, or if you are 45-50 years old or if you have experienced some of the symptoms related to colon cancer, then you need to be screened. We’ve improved so much in this area, yet there is more work to be done. And this has become my passion now that I’m retired from coaching.”

“The next time you talk on the phone again about your situation, you be the one who makes the call. Don’t wait for people to come to you. You select the people with whom you want to share your thoughts about cancer, and what you want to talk about. Don’t have the attitude that you want to do it alone and not burden anyone.”

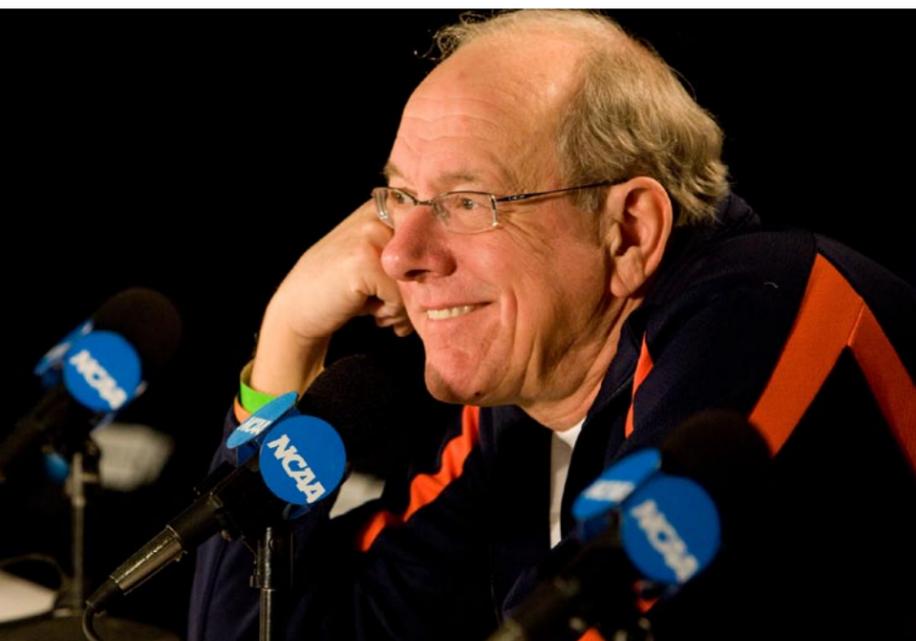


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JIM BOEHEIM

The Syracuse coach is a Hall-of-Famer in every way—his contributions to Coaches vs. Cancer and his actions to swiftly defeat prostate cancer have impacted many.

JIM BOEHEIM'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS HEAD MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH AT SYRACUSE HAVE BROUGHT HIM AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF JOY. His 34-year run as Orange coach has been highlighted with a national championship in 2003,



two other Final Four appearances, and induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2005. These are honors and memories that only a handful of coaches hope to experience.

Ask Boeheim to list his finest accomplishments and these honors are surely to be ranked near the top. But there's another great moment that Boeheim will put right up with all of these accolades. It occurred in April 2000 when Jim and his wife, Juli, put on their first "BasketBall Gala" to raise money and awareness for the Coaches vs. Cancer program.

Jim and Juli worked together to launch the Gala. They selected the location, the speakers, and the menu. They worked the phones to recruit friends and supporters to buy seats at the Gala. And because it was their first major event for charity, they were as nervous that evening as when Boeheim's team defeated Kansas to win the national title. Those nerves quickly turned to wonderment when about 650 people showed up to attend the Gala—about double the number they had hoped for.

Jim Boeheim did not shed tears of joy when his team won the NCAA championship. He did that evening in April 2000, because he knew this accomplishment had far more impact.

"Jim looked at me after the event was over and said, 'Can you believe it? How can we ever top this? This is awesome,'" Juli was quoted in recalling her husband's emotion at the end of the inaugural Gala. "As he was talking,

he had tears in his eyes. Jim was so moved, and at the same time it was so humbling for him. That night brought him to his knees."

Boeheim was driven to help in the fight against cancer. Both of his parents had died from the disease, as well as some of his closest friends.

"My desire to help create awareness and generate funds for the fight against cancer comes from the fact that I lost loved ones and friends to the disease," said Boeheim. "I think that really makes you try to make a difference."

"What myself and the other coaches are doing in holding events is first and foremost really helping to raise awareness," he continued. "When coaches get involved in these events, there's more publicity generated—it's in the papers, it's on TV. Raising money is always important, but it's much more the awareness piece that coaches can really emphasize. Coaches are the dominant figures in most communities, so they have a great platform to raise awareness and money for causes that improve their community as a whole."

More than 18 months after he helped launch the first BasketBall Gala, Boeheim was back on the public stage in the fight against cancer—this time at the most personal level. How he monitored his condition and the manner in which he took the necessary actions to be cancer-free serves as a model for others.

Boeheim had been dealing with an enlarged prostate for several years, and his doctors had been closely monitoring the situation even though there had been no signs of cancer. Then in November 2001 a biopsy was performed and the results indicated precancerous cells. Some coaches might have waited to have his prostate removed, but Boeheim knew the appropriate action was to deal with the matter immediately. He went to St. Louis to see prostate cancer surgeon William Catalona, who recommended surgery and Boeheim agreed to have it in early December.

So eight games into the 2001-02 season, Boeheim took a medical leave of absence from his team to take care of his health.

"I had a fear about it without question," he recalled. "The good news with prostate

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“

Unfortunately, we tend to sit on the sidelines for cancer and other types of causes until we're touched by them personally. Everybody needs to get off the sidelines in this regard. If you can spend two-three hours a week helping, it can make a big difference.”



cancer is that when you catch it early and this was early—only a small amount of cancer found—then it's more likely to be contained within the prostate, so your prognosis is very good and you have a high chance of recovery. You have a positive outlook on the situation. I think my involvement with sports helped me have a positive outlook that this could be beaten. I really didn't look back. I knew what I had to do, I knew I had a good doctor, and I went out and got it done.”

Boheim recovered so well from his prostate surgery that he only missed three games during his leave. The actions that he took—and how swiftly he took them—resulted in the best possible results. Since that year, Boehim has made it a point to share his success story with others facing a similar situation. He has taken both numerous calls from people looking for encouragement and, whenever possible, made a point to visit or phone others dealing with cancer.

He said, “It's normal to think, ‘What should I do? How do I do everything possible to beat this? How long does it take to recover, and what are the effects?’ It's the unknown in many ways and people want to hear as often as possible that their form of cancer can be beaten.

“When you heard you had cancer 20 years ago, you thought you were as good as dead. Obviously some forms of cancer are much more difficult than others, but you'll find people who have beaten it in almost all forms. The message is that you have to go into your situation very positively.

“I just talked to a high school coach who has kidney cancer, and he just had one of his kidneys removed a couple months ago. Now he's changed his diet, he's working out, and he has lost 40 pounds. He's going through his treatments. He is working to get healthy to beat it. So far, so good. You can win with this type of attitude.”

Boheim is not just highly regarded by his peers for all of his achievements as a basketball coach, but also for all of the charitable contributions he makes. “When you do good things for other people, it's also good for you,” he

said. “You don't need to get any recognition for it. If you are not willing to do things that you don't receive recognition for, then you're not in it for the right reasons.”

Boheim has made it a priority to teach his players the importance of service. Syracuse players help raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and spend time with children involved in the program. “I tell our players all the time that you're giving several kids who may not get much more out of life, the chance to fulfill a wish that they have, and there's no better feeling than that,” Boehim said. “There was a young boy living in the Syracuse area who had brain cancer and last year he followed us, came to practices and came to games. The team took him on, and I think he helped our players as much as we helped him. It's always nice for people to know that you are helping people in the community, such as what we do for the Foundation, but it is really much more beneficial to you personally.”



Jim and Juli Boehim were the first to hold a Coaches vs. Cancer Basketball Gala, and they have raised more than \$3 million from these events. Other coaches have taken the Boehims' lead to hold an annual Gala in their own community. The Syracuse coach takes a great deal of pride in seeing this, because he knows it sends a critical message to all people, not just basketball coaches.

“Unfortunately, we tend to sit on the sidelines for cancer and other types of causes until we're touched by them personally,” he said. “Everybody needs to get off the sidelines in this regard. If you haven't been touched by a situation involving cancer personally, you're likely to be touched down the road. You don't need to spend 30-40 hours a week helping. I don't believe that people realize it, but if you can spend two-three hours a week helping, it can make a big difference. We can all lend two-three hours a week. We can all play a role in defeating cancer.”

CUONZO MARTIN

Lymphoma cut short his professional basketball career, but strong faith has helped the University of Tennessee coach become cancer-free.

CUONZO MARTIN ALWAYS FIGURED HIS DAYS PLAYING PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL WOULD BE LIMITED,

due to the poor condition of his knees. As it turned out, Martin was right—sort of.

After finishing his college career at Purdue University in 1995, Martin was picked in the second round of the NBA Draft and played parts of two seasons with the Vancouver Grizzlies and Milwaukee Bucks. He also spent time in the Continental Basketball Association and overseas, playing for S.S. Felice Scandone in Avellino, Italy.

But what eventually took him off the court and ended his three-year professional career was something Martin never could have predicted. In fact, to this day, it's a word that he struggles to even say: cancer.

During the 1997-98 season in Italy, Martin was experiencing an up-and-down year. He played extremely well in the first half of games, but would fatigue quickly and was a virtual non-factor in the second half. The team owner brought Martin into his office and tried to get to the bottom of the issue.

"I wasn't sure what was wrong," Martin said. "I thought maybe it was because the team was practicing twice a day or I was adjusting to living in a different country. But I really couldn't explain it."

Two weeks after the meeting, everything came to a head. Martin was participating in a running drill at practice when, halfway through, he collapsed

on the court. He was taken to the team's athletic training room to be checked over, which included being placed on a scale. In four and a half months, Martin's weight had plummeted from 215 pounds to 180. Team doctors began a series of tests.

"I noticed that I hadn't been eating a lot of foods," Martin said. "I would hold food in my mouth and then put it in a napkin. I didn't understand it.

"That night, the team owner called me into his office and said, 'We need to get you back to the States right away for more testing,'" continued Martin. "He said they thought it was bronchitis, but I think they only said that so I wouldn't be scared on my flight home."

Martin, his wife, and their four-month old son boarded a plane in Rome, caught a connecting flight in New York City, and arrived in Indianapolis around 2 a.m. local time. By 2:30 a.m., Martin was in the hospital. After another series of tests and x-rays, a doctor came into the room and confirmed the family's worst fears: "We think this is life-threatening."

During his four-year career at Purdue, Cuonzo Martin was known as the Boilermakers' defensive stopper and a sharpshooter from beyond the 3-point arc. He left the West Lafayette, Ind., campus fourth on the school's career list of 3-pointers made and first in career 3-point percentage. He scored 1,666 points in 127 games, including 18.4 points per game as a senior, and helped Purdue win a pair of Big Ten titles. On the court, Martin was in his element—he was in control. In the hospital room that morning, he was anything but.

"It was extremely tough," Martin said. "I had absolutely no control over anything. The doctor said it's life-threatening, and it's out of my hands."

With the unbearable feeling that he was helpless in controlling what happened next, Martin turned to his faith in God for help. "I was 26 years old, my wife was 24, and we had a four-month old son," he said. "The only thing I was praying for at that point was to see my son grow up and turn 18. I prayed a lot and had a lot of people praying for me, but at the end of the day, it was all up to God's plan."

After another series of tests, doctors determined Martin had non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of cancer in which tumors develop from lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell. According to the National Cancer Institute, there were 65,540 new cases of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2010 and 20,210 deaths.



“If the energy is positive from the people around you, if they're laughing and joking around and acting like it's a regular day, you'll have the strength to push forward. If they're crying and looking discouraged, then you'll remember this is serious. You start to think, 'Maybe I don't have a chance. Maybe the doctor told them something.' The energy of the people around you has to be positive.”

Martin spent most of the next four and a half months undergoing chemotherapy. The treatments left Martin's body so fatigued and drained that he spent most of his time away from the hospital either asleep or lying on the couch. There were times when his body simply wanted to give up.

"I wasn't in a lot of pain, so it was one of those things that if God was ready to take me, at least I wasn't in agonizing pain every second," Martin said. "I couldn't get up. There wasn't a lot of talking. If it was going to happen, that was probably the best way to go."

While Martin's body may have been willing to give up, his mind wouldn't let him—and neither would those close to him. While he was resting, his wife, family, and friends were busy creating a positive atmosphere around him.

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important.”

"My wife was really strong and that helped," Martin said. "If she had been weak, sobbing every day and showing signs of disappointment, that probably would have made it tougher on me. But she was going about her day, business as usual. And my son—just to see him, to have him crawl around on my chest—gave me the strength to keep pushing forward."

In fact, Martin found it most helpful when those around him didn't pay attention to the fact that he was suffering from a life-threatening disease. "I fed off their energy," he said. "If the energy is positive, if they're laughing and joking around and acting like it's a regular day, you'll have the strength to push forward. If they're crying and looking discouraged, then you'll remember this is serious. You start to think, 'Maybe I don't have a chance. Maybe the doctor told them something.' The energy of the people around you has to be positive.

"It's easy for someone to say, 'Be strong,'" Martin continued. "But it's hard to hear it unless that someone truly has compassion for what the person with the disease is going through. It's hard to be positive when you're fighting a battle and don't know if there's a tomorrow."

For Martin, there was. His last chemotherapy treatment came on April 20, 1998, and now, almost 13 years later, the chances of the cancer returning are no greater than for someone who never had it in the first place. While the disease is gone from his body, those months battling the disease will never be erased from his memory.

"I've always been a guy with good, positive energy, focused on doing things the right way," Martin said. "But I think going through what I did made me understand what's really

important. It's still hard for me, all these years later, to say the word—to say the word 'cancer.' I really struggle with saying it. I don't know why, but it's really hard for me to actually say the word."

Two years after his final treatment, Martin was named an assistant coach at his alma mater and joined the staff of his former head coach, Gene Keady. He was promoted to Associate Head Coach for the 2007-08 season and the following year, he became head coach at Missouri State University, where he remained until he was named head coach at the University of Tennessee in March 2011. Coaching wasn't always in Martin's life plan but, then again, neither was cancer.

"When Coach Keady called me with the opportunity, I knew it was a great thing for me, and I couldn't pass it up," Martin said. "I became really excited about coaching."

Missouri State finished 11-20 in Martin's first season at the helm and improved to 24-12 in 2009-10, winning the CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament. In 2010-11, he led the team to a 26-9 record, and Missouri State made it to the second round of the National Invitation Tournament. Along the way, Martin has gained a new appreciation for every day he lives, and each new challenge he faces.

"You have no choice but to look back on [my illness] because every day for me is a blessing," Martin said. "Losing a game is not as important as going through a battle like that. It's just a game. You're able to bounce back and go forward."

And he's teaching that lesson to his athletes every day. "Every coach and every team will lose games," Martin said. "It's about making sure our players understand what's important. You lost that game, but what did you learn from it? I try to make our guys understand that it's just a game and we have a chance to bounce back. You live to fight another day. Not everyone has that opportunity."

Martin does, and he relishes it. With that four-month old son now a teenager—but not yet 18—plus two younger children growing up before his eyes, he's thankful to have a lot more fight left in him, and a lot more life left to live.



DAVE PORTER

This retired Missouri coach is on a mission to fulfill the wish of Jason Struble and raise awareness about testicular cancer.

LIKE MOST COACHES, DAVE PORTER CAN TELL A STORY.

The former Lafayette High School mentor has dozens of them—about this player or that shot, the exhilarating victories and heartbreaking defeats. Ask any coach who's done it long enough, and he or she will have a monologue at the ready.

Porter certainly coached long enough (39 years) and with enough success (594 wins) that he's bound to have a great story—or 20. But his best story isn't about wins, losses or great shots. His is quite different. It's a tale of heartbreaking loss, of a life taken far too soon.

It centers on a dying young man's last wish, and the mission born of that request. It's a story about a coach who is driven to fulfill the request and save the lives of young men. "It changed my life," said Porter, who in 1992 founded the Jason A. Struble Memorial Cancer Fund, Inc., the mission of which is to spread the

word about testicular cancer. Struble, who played for Porter, lost his life to the disease in '92, after a two-year fight.

"He wanted us to do something," Porter said of Struble. "He wanted us to save one life, and that's what he asked me to do. Save lives." Porter figures that he's saved "at least 20 lives that we know of" through his message of self-examination and early detection in the nearly 19 years that he's been spreading the word throughout the Midwest and elsewhere. He has spoken at middle and high schools, and at basketball camps, service clubs and clinics.

The memorial fund produced an educational video in 1994, paid for with proceeds from a benefit golf tournament and auction, and has distributed it across the U.S. and to at least half a dozen other countries. The golf

tournament, the Jason Struble Tournament for Life, was last held in 2007 but raised an estimated \$150,000 in the seven years it was held.

Porter's current mission: Through Coaches vs. Cancer and other initiatives, to better and more efficiently get the word out about testicular cancer, a seldom talked-about form of the disease that hit Porter so close to home some 20 years ago.

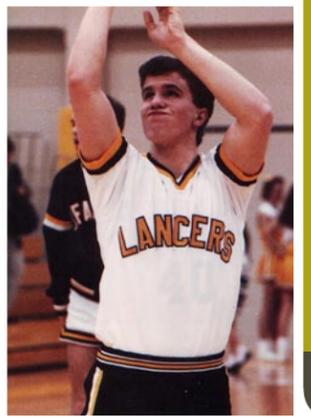
As Porter tells his rapt audiences, testicular cancer is the No. 1 cancer killer of males ages 15 to 35, but is 95 percent treatable if detected early enough. It was that second part of the equation that ultimately cost Struble his life. Porter was in his 15th year at Lafayette in 1989-90 when Struble—a kid Porter described as "not having the most talent, but would dive for a loose ball, get you a rebound, set screens"—decided to play again after skipping his junior year.

"This was one instance where a kid decides not to play for all the right reasons," Porter said. "He'd talked to his parents during his junior year and decided that his grades were suffering and that he should not play basketball. I asked him sort of skeptically, 'So you're going to use that extra two and a half hours a day to work on schoolwork?' And he said, 'Yes, sir.' And he did."

He was a skinny 6-footer as a junior, but when he made the decision to return to the team, he began to lift weights and bulk up. Twenty-five pounds later, he was a 6-1, 190-pound force who could "barely bench the bar before, and now he was bench-pressing 300 pounds," Porter said. Struble slipped into the role of sixth man on the team, and was the first player off the bench "regardless of who came out," Porter said. The team had been tested mightily that season, as three expected returnees—a 6-foot-8 and two 6-foot-6 players—all were lost. That left the tallest player at 6-foot-3½, and that looked to be a problem on Senior Night in February when Lafayette hosted De Smet, the top-ranked team in metro St. Louis and the No. 3 team in the state. "Their off-guard was 6-foot-4, taller than our center," Porter said.

At one point, Lafayette's pivot man raised his hand, indicating that he needed to come out for a rest, so Porter turned to Struble. Immediately, however, it was clear that his top reserve was not right. Struble said he was having trouble breathing.

"If I live to be 100, I don't think I'll ever forget it," Porter said. "Jason did all the little things for us, he was a scrapper. But there was a missed free throw and a long rebound, then a shot and a rebound at the other end, and Jason still hadn't crossed half-court after the free throw." Struble went out of the game, but quickly regained his breath and asked to go back in. He would be subbed in and out from that point on, and wound up playing a key role as Lafayette pulled off the upset.



“Young men need to be aware of their bodies like young women are educated to be, to do self-examination and to know the warning signs.”



But at home later that night, Struble experienced excruciating pain in his lungs, so his parents took him to the hospital. Tests and lung X-rays produced a stunning diagnosis: cancer.

Struble had known for some time that one of his testicles was slightly larger than the other, but knew from reading on the subject that that abnormality is not uncommon. But by not getting it checked out early, the cancer that had started in his testicles had spread into his lungs and stomach.

He would spend his final 26 months fighting for his life, enduring painful treatments and time spent in and out of hospitals, until finally succumbing to the disease on May 1, 1992. But before he died, he sent a message to his coach. At least that's how Porter sees it.

"He was in the car with his mom going home from a trip to the lake, and he told her that he didn't want to die at 19 and have his life have no meaning," Porter said. "He said he wanted her and his dad to educate as many young men in the area as possible about the illness.

"I think what he was saying was, he was expressing a desire to tell as many people as possible about testicular cancer," Porter said, "and I think he knew that they could only do so much. And I think he thought she would probably ask me."

And that's exactly what happened. Porter became a crusader, spreading the word across the state and region that early detection is the key. Porter is passionate about this, and his passion comes through loud and clear.

"I'd go to a camp with 60 boys and ask how many have read or heard information about breast cancer, and every one of them would raise their hand," Porter said. "Then I'd ask them how many have read or heard information about testicular cancer, and maybe five or six kids would raise their hands. Young men need to be aware of their bodies like young women are educated to be, to do self-examination and to know the warning signs."



In addition to public speaking, Porter and a dedicated group of volunteers established Jason's Tournament for Life, a golf and charity auction event held at Hidden Valley Golf Course in Eureka, Mo. Its original goal was to raise enough money to produce the educational video on testicular cancer self-examination, and send it out to as many schools as possible. Porter enlisted the help of local business people in getting the golf tournament off the ground, approaching a well-known barbecue restaurant owner first.



"I asked how much it would cost us," Porter recalled, "and he said he'd do it for nothing. Then he asked me how many sponsors I've got so far, and I said, "One—you."

The golf tournament and auction are a thing of the past now but Jason's parents, Tom and Doris, still get the occasional contribution to the memorial fund. Tom still sends out copies of the video, which features PGA Tour player and St. Louis-area resident Trevor Dodds, as well as Stewart, the former Missouri basketball coach and a cancer survivor himself.

"Dave's goal was to raise \$100,000 and educate 100,000 people," says Tom Struble, "and I think he's done that, and then some." Porter still has work to do, and that work involves getting high school coaches involved in Coaches vs. Cancer.

"If high school coaches join forces with the guys like (Dick) Vitale, (Jim) Boeheim and Norm Stewart, they have a forum to do a world of good," Porter said. "Whether it's education about testicular cancer, drinking and driving, whatever, there's a world of good they can do by getting involved in something that can affect people's lives.

"Everywhere I go, I tell people, 'I'm going to tell you a story that's going to impact your life,'" he said. "It's about the bravest kid I've ever known, and his request that his life not end without having any meaning.

"It's amazing, this kid's story is so powerful," Porter said. "When I get to the end of my talk, it gets so quiet you hear a pin drop. And I always tell them, 'Listen real closely, and you won't hear my voice—you'll hear Jasons'."

Go to www.testicularcancer.org and www.testicular-cancer-symptoms.org to learn more about testicular cancer, including signs and symptoms of the disease and how to do a self-examination for testicular cancer. Send an email to tstruble@testicularcancer.org to request a copy of an educational video on testicular cancer that is targeted to young male athletes.

“ Whether it’s education about testicular cancer, drinking and driving, whatever, there’s a world of good they can do by getting involved in something that can affect people’s lives.”

MATT BROWN

The University of Missouri-Kansas City head coach provided strength for his daughter Ally to battle thyroid cancer—he got back a lot more in return.



MATT BROWN HAS LEARNED THERE ARE CERTAIN TIMES AS A BASKETBALL COACH WHEN YOU'VE GOT TO HIDE YOUR EMOTIONS—such as when your team is in the middle of blowing a big lead and you feel it's not likely to change the momentum, or when you want to jump on the court and challenge a referee for the call he made but know you'll be ejected if you do so. Off the court, Brown has had to use this skill to cope with the toughest of situations.

In March of 2010, Matt's 11-year-old daughter, Ally, was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. During the months after this diagnosis, Matt and his wife, Nikki, showered Ally with endless positive energy and encouragement while Ally underwent surgery to remove her thyroid and two additional surgeries to remove additional cancerous cells in her neck area. They'd display an upbeat attitude during her numerous medical treatments.

But at night, Matt and Nikki Brown would sometimes shed some tears, hug each other, and wonder, "How is this happening? Why does our lovely daughter have to go through this?"

The Browns used all of their collective strength to keep these emotions from Ally. They knew this was imperative to her recovery.

"Kids with serious health issues are going to react the way that you react as parents," Brown said. "If you are going to sit there and feel sorry for yourself or worry about the possibility of a negative outcome, your child is going to go down a path that can impact his or her chances to defeat the illness. But

if your outlook is positive and all of your focus is on making positive steps to complete recovery, then your child's outlook is going to respond and act the same way. It's certainly not easy to hide your anxiety and worries, but it's what you have to do as a parent of a child who has cancer."

Still, Matt and Nikki Brown knew they were blessed in the way that Ally was dealing with her cancer. While they were providing strength for Ally, they were getting it back from their courageous daughter, who had developed a special perspective and faith.

"I wish I could say that Nikki and I told her something to get her on the right path," said Matt, "but Ally really did that by herself. She's a Christian and she believes her faith is all she needs to get better. She has had faith that God is going to heal her. She shares her story with people and she's her own testimony for overcoming cancer.

"Ally had accepted the attitude of 'This is the way that it's going to be, and the only way to get better is to do the treatments and have faith and move forward.' That's the way it is in life—if you feel sorry for yourself, generally you're not going to get out of your situation."

Brown also drew upon the support provided by his brother, Jason, and sister-in-law, Tannis, who have shown tremendous courage in dealing with a more serious form of cancer. Tannis has been battling a rare form of cancer for the past seven years.

"All the worries that Nikki and I have had are so much smaller compared to what my brother and his wife are going through," Brown said. "I've been able to learn so much from Jason in how he has handled his situation and apply it to helping Ally. He has been a big help to me.

"It's important for parents of a child battling cancer to seek counsel from people who are going through a similar situation. Don't be afraid to tell those people what you're thinking and what you're feeling. For me, having the opportunity to share my feelings with my brother has been so important."

Brown got heavily involved in Coaches vs. Cancer in many ways because of his sister-in-law's situation. His many contributions to the organization include participating

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in an extremely successful annual BasketBall Gala in Kansas City that's held each fall. Brown worked with University of Kansas Head Coach Bill Self, Kansas State Head Coach Frank Martin, University of Missouri's Mike Anderson and former Missouri Coach Norm Stewart to launch the Gala in 2008, and the event has become extremely successful in terms of both raising money and awareness.

"I tell people all the time that cancer has no prejudice—it will affect people of all races and ages. It's nasty," Brown said. "It's so important to continue raising money for cancer research. My sister-in-law is a perfect example of why we need to continue to try and find a cure for cancer."

Not long after the inaugural Kansas City BasketBall Gala, Ally noticed a small lump on her throat. She was nine years old at the time and the Browns were told that it was her Adam's apple and that the situation was quite normal and that the lump would go away.

But it didn't and only became more prominent. In March 2010, an ultrasound diagnostic revealed that the lump was a large tumor wrapped up in the thyroid. Ally had surgery in Kansas City to have her thyroid removed.

Reggie Minton, Deputy Executive Director for the National Association of Basketball Coaches, was instrumental in helping the Browns arrange for medical assistance from specialists at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. "Doctors there determined that there were still cancerous cells in Ally's neck area, and she underwent two surgeries to remove those cells. Ally has an upcoming appointment at the Mayo Clinic to hopefully be diagnosed as cancer-free.

"Ally will obviously feel the effects of her cancer situation for the rest of her life, but we're so blessed to have received all of this tremendous medical care and be at this stage of her recovery," Brown said.

Ally is one of six children for the Browns. That's another blessing—five siblings to provide Ally with the love and support needed to defeat cancer. "All of her brothers and sisters rallied around her," Brown said. "We tried to keep our household as normal as possible during Ally's surgeries and treatments and this helped her a great

deal. She plays basketball with her school team. She'd be out two weeks at a time for certain phases of her treatments, but then she'd get right back into her activities. We didn't want her to feel sorry for herself, and we wanted to reinforce to her that life goes on. But still, the fact that she has been able to keep life as normal as possible is pretty much a testament to her—both her faith and her determination."

During the entire process, Ally has approached her situation as being a role model for other children who may be stricken with cancer. "She has a scar that she uses as a conversation-starter about the topic and about her feelings that God chose her to be the person to deliver this message to others," Brown said. "Ally is a pretty strong-willed person."

This attitude has fueled Brown to new heights in his coaching career. "What Ally has accomplished in taking on cancer has helped me much more than I have ever helped her," said Brown. "Her example has made me a much better coach. The first couple of years, when things weren't going well, I felt a little sorry for myself. But this is the best year that our program has had, and I really think it's because of my new outlook, which has come from Ally.

"When I feel sorry that we lost a game, I think about all of the things that Ally has been through, and then I think, 'How in the world can I complain?'"

It's easy for coaches to lose perspective on what's really important in life, both when the wins are piling up as well as when their team is in the midst of a long losing streak. The events of this past year have reminded Brown why he became a coach in the first place, and he's committed to passing on to his players the lessons he's learned through watching his inspirational young daughter.

"I feel blessed to be able to pass on this life lesson to my players," said Brown. "Ally has inspired my players in terms of having the toughness to handle adversity. When one of my players goes through a bad stretch during a game or has a sprained ankle, he reflects on my daughter's situation and re-thinks the situation. Our players understand there's much they can do to help others get the most out of their own lives. That's really what coaching is about."



“It’s important for parents of a child battling cancer to seek counsel from people who are going through a similar situation. Don’t be afraid to tell those people what you’re thinking and what you’re feeling. For me, having the opportunity to share my feelings with my brother has been so important.”





TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

FRAN DUNPHY

How has cancer impacted you personally?

I don't think you can get to be my age and not have cancer impact you. But even if it had not, I'd still be passionate about it because you read and see how cancer impacts so many different families. Aunts, uncles—my dad had it but beat it. It's very much a part of all our immediate families. Nobody escapes cancer, that's the unfortunate part.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

I just think there are so many fabulous stories about courage and the inspiration that these people have, and the inspiration they provide for you as a person—you just admire what they go through. There's a special strength that they have and I wish we could all have that inner strength and that great courage that they possess. That's what our jobs are—to remind our players and staff that we're pretty lucky to be doing what it is that we do.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

I think my words of encouragement would be very shallow compared to what they have already gone through and are already fighting through. There are so many great stories out there. The one nice thing about the Internet age we live in, is someone can access these stories immediately and see they're not alone in what it is that they're doing.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Hosts a Coaches vs. Cancer BasketBall Gala in Philadelphia along with Saint Joseph's Coach Phil Martelli, Jay Wright of Villanova, Bruiser Flint of Drexel, Dr. John Giannini of LaSalle, and Jerome Allen of Penn • Participates in the Coaches vs. Cancer Golf Classic • Has made advocacy appearances on behalf of the organization.

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

Led team to three consecutive Atlantic-10 Conference championships • In his second season with the Owls, brought the team to its first NCAA Tournament since 2001 • 2010 A-10 Coach of the Year

FAMILY

Dunphy and his wife Ree have a son, J.P.



DUKE UNIVERSITY

MIKE KRZYZEWSKI

How has cancer impacted you personally?

The concept of coaches fighting cancer started when Jim Valvano was fighting his battle with the disease. It was at this time the V Foundation was formed. Coaches vs. Cancer also formed at this time. Since that time, my mom passed away from breast cancer. Most families we know have either experienced cancer first-hand or through friends. The great thing about Coaches vs. Cancer is that most of the money stays within the local communities. That is one of the things the NABC is most proud of—so many coaches have devoted their time and effort in those communities to fight this disease.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

You see courage at the highest levels from the people and their families who have cancer. The best way to beat it is to develop a team fighting it, and creating an environment conducive to winning.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

I would suggest to not fight this alone. Create a team behind you so you don't have any weak days. If you do it alone, you'll have weak days. If you have a team committed to beating it, you'll avoid those days. Cancer doesn't like strength or teamwork. I've seen that work for a number of people. One of the most important aspects of having a great team working together is that patients can fight cancer with dignity.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Member of the Coaches vs. Cancer Council • Helped to start the Coaches vs. Cancer organization 16 years ago.

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

Entering the 2010-11 season, has won four National Championships [1991, 1992, 2001, 2010] and made 11 trips to the Final Four in 26 NCAA Tournaments • Named National Coach of the Year 12 times • Inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2001

FAMILY

Krzyzewski and his wife Carol (Mickie) have three children: Debbie, Lindy, and Jamie. Coach K and Jamie have written two books together.



COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

BOBBY CREMINS

How has cancer impacted you personally?

My Dad died of colon cancer and I've lost some very good personal friends to the disease.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

Cancer can come quickly and your life can be over quickly. It happens so fast and has a very short timetable. However, I am seeing more patients surviving.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

Having seen more patients survive, I now feel a lot of progress is being made and regardless of our symptoms, we need to keep fighting and keep the faith.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Member of the Coaches vs. Cancer Council • Participates in the Coaches vs. Cancer Golf Classic • Hosts a CvC tip-off breakfast

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

Winningest coach in Georgia Tech history • Took the Yellow Jackets to nine NCAA Tournaments in 19 years • Named National Coach of the Year in 1985 and 1990

FAMILY

Cremins and his wife Carolyn have three children: Liz, Suzie, and Bobby III



FORMERLY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

GARY WILLIAMS

How has cancer impacted you personally?

My mother and grandfather died of cancer.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

Cancer can strike anyone—it plays no favorites. There are great doctors who spend their whole careers trying to find a cure for cancer.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

There is not much I can say because they are the ones fighting cancer. I am amazed at how many people have great courage in their personal battle against cancer.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Member of the Coaches vs. Cancer Council • Started Coaches vs. Cancer national golf tournament in 1998 • Hosts a CvC tip-off breakfast

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

14 NCAA Tournament berths, seven Sweet Sixteen appearances, a pair of consecutive Final Four showings, and the 2002 National Championship in 17 seasons • Maryland's all-time winningest head basketball coach • Named National Coach of the Year once and ACC Coach of the Year twice

FAMILY

Williams has a daughter, Kristin.



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

PAUL HEWITT

How has cancer impacted you personally?

My high school basketball coach died of cancer back in 1993. From a basketball perspective, he has had the greatest influence on my life. My Dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer a few years ago. Thankfully, he had successful treatment, and now he is cancer-free.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

We're all responsible for trying to beat this terrible disease. The number of lives that are touched negatively when somebody loses their battle with cancer can be infinite, whether it's a teacher, a community leader, a coach, or a loved one. The damage the disease causes is devastating.

On the flip side, when someone survives and lives on to be a positive contributor to their community, family or classroom, the positive impact is priceless.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

They're not in it by themselves. I hope it brings them some comfort and encouragement to know that people from all walks of life are doing their part to make their battle a successful one.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Has served as host for a Coaches vs. Cancer Basketball Gala in Atlanta • Traveled with his team to a Hope Lodge location to visit with cancer patients

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

In 11 seasons at Georgia Tech, he led the team to the NCAA Tournament five times, including a Final Four appearance in 2004 • Named ACC, MAAC, and BCA Coach of the Year • Has served as a USA Basketball Under-18 Assistant Coach twice, helping the U.S. to a gold medal at the FIBA Americas U18 Championship both times

FAMILY

Hewitt and his wife Dawnette have three children: Olivia, Danielle, and Kayla.



OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

TRAVIS FORD

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Holds major Coaches vs. Cancer fundraising events

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

In his first year at OSU, led the Cowboys to their first Sweet 16 appearance in four years • Led the University of Massachusetts to its first postseason victory in over a decade his second year on the job • Coached back-to-back Atlantic 10 Conference Players of the Year in 2007 and 2008

FAMILY

Ford and his wife Heather have three children: Brooks, Kyleigh, and Shane.

What life-long lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

Beating cancer makes you stronger. So many people who have battled this disease and won the fight have become stronger, both physically and mentally. It's a disease that can break you down, but when you build yourself back up, you're a stronger person for it.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

Never give up. Twenty years ago, when someone was diagnosed with cancer, it was a death sentence. There were very few procedures to battle cancer and most of them simply prolonged the length of someone's suffering with the disease. However, today there's no question that with chemotherapy, radiation and other medical advances, people are beating this disease and living cancer-free for many, many years.



FORMERLY OF
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
DENNY CRUM

How has cancer impacted you personally?

Every member of my family who is deceased has died of cancer of some form or another.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

That no one is immune from cancer regardless of age or sex. Take good care of yourself and get regular check-ups.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

The Jimmy V “never give up” attitude is the most important bit of advice anyone can give or receive. We are discovering new medicines and treatments every day.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Previously a Member of the Coaches vs. Cancer Council
• Involved in the original 3-Point Attack Fundraiser for the organization • Former CvC Champion Award winner as organization’s coach of the year

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

Led the Cardinals to five Final Four appearances and two National Championships • Has been named National Coach of the Year three times • Was enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1994

FAMILY

Crum has three children: Cynthia, Steve, and Scott.



BOSTON COLLEGE

STEVE DONAHUE

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Participates in the Coaches vs. Cancer Golf Classic • Has made advocacy appearances on behalf of the organization

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

In 2009-10, led Cornell University to its third straight Ivy League title, its first NCAA Tournament win, and a trip to the Sweet Sixteen • In 2008, led Cornell to its first Ivy League Championship in 20 years • Named Clair Bee Coach of the Year and National Association of Basketball Coaches District 4 Coach of the Year in 2010

FAMILY

Donahue and wife Pamela have four children: Taylor, Matthew, Katie, and Jack

How has cancer impacted you personally?

I lost my father three years ago and my father-in-law two years ago. I lost a very close friend 12 years ago at the age of 36. He left behind three young children. Since then, I’ve tried to do everything I can to help in the fight against cancer.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

I’ve witnessed tremendous courage from several people who have battled cancer. What I’ve taken away from the experience is a greater appreciation for life. I realize how fortunate I am to have good health.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

Please realize that cancer can be beaten. Due to the great research over the past 25 years, everyone has a chance to win the battle.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TUBBY SMITH

How has cancer impacted you personally?

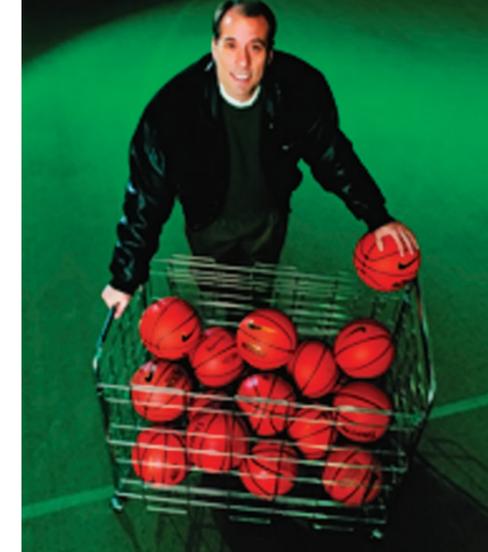
Cancer has impacted me personally in many different ways. My old assistant died of throat cancer. So many of my coaching friends and teammates from college, as we speak, are suffering and fighting this dreaded disease. So my heart goes out to everyone. At some point in time, everyone is going to be affected. In this day and time, as you get older, cancer can touch you in so many ways. There are so many ways you can be affected by it. We know how devastating it can be.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

The things I've learned over my years are that it has to be a team effort when it comes to helping people fight cancer. I've learned you have to take care of yourself. You have to get screened properly. Don't take chances. Don't neglect having a check-up if you think something might be wrong. Make sure you rush to seek medical help. That's what I try to share with others.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

For those who are suffering from cancer, all I can tell you is remember Jim Valvano. He was a great coach and commentator. The NABC has made cancer our number one fight, raising and donating over \$50 million over the years to fight this disease. What I would say is what Jim said: "Don't give up. Don't ever give up." Continue to fight. There is a cure out there, somewhere. We will find a cure for this disease. We're doing everything in our power to help fight this. We want to keep encouraging you to know that you're not alone in this fight and that there are people reaching out, ready to help in any way possible. There are a lot of coaches who are determined and doing their part to help raise funds for research to find a cure for cancer.



FORMERLY OF
 CORNELL UNIVERSITY

SCOTT THOMPSON

How has cancer impacted you personally?

At 45 years old, I was the Men's Head Basketball Coach at Cornell University and a 23-year veteran of Division I basketball coaching. During an annual physical exam my doctor advised me to get a colonoscopy. They discovered I had a malignant tumor in the wall of my colon. I was diagnosed with stage III colon cancer. After six months of chemotherapy I decided to leave coaching, get my health back, and spend some precious time with my family.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

I learned how fragile our lives really are. I felt God tapping me on the shoulder telling me that my best-laid plans for the future were unimportant in the big scheme of life. Relationships with family and friends cannot be taken for granted. Their value in our lives cannot be measured.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

Remember that having cancer is not a death sentence like it used to be. There are new discoveries in cancer prevention and treatment each day. You must be your own cancer advocate by learning as much as you can about your specific disease. Get a second opinion from one of the 40 NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers throughout the United States.

Almost everyone is affected by cancer during his or her lifetime. Be prepared to learn from people about their cancer experience and be prepared to pass it forward.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Member of the Coaches vs. Cancer Council • Participates in the Coaches vs. Cancer Golf Classic • Has made advocacy appearances on behalf of the organization

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

Won a National Championship at the University of Kentucky and has won five Southeastern Conference tournaments • Three-time National Coach of the Year and five-time conference coach of the year • Former president of the National Association of Basketball Coaches

FAMILY

Smith and his wife Donna have three children: Orlando, Saul, and Brian.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Previously a Member of the Coaches vs. Cancer Council • Has made advocacy appearances on behalf of the organization

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

In his first season at Rice, he turned the team around from a 6-21 record to 20-11 • Took Rice to the NIT in 1991 • Southwest Conference Coach of the Year in 1991

FAMILY

Thompson and his wife Rebecca have two children: Christian and Aubrey Ann.



UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

LON KRUGER

How has cancer impacted you personally?

It's touched everyone's lives. I lost my dad to cancer ten years ago and my wife has had melanoma, but everyone's been touched by it. It's just a way of life it seems, unfortunately.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

The number one thing I've learned is that it touches everyone. Immediate family or extended family, friends—everyone. There's been a lot of progress made, but there's still a long way to go. I know the people who engage in the fight against cancer are very passionate. There are terrific people who are working very hard across the country.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

Just know there are a lot of people who care, and a lot of people who can relate to what you're going through. In my experiences, people are very caring. They're reaching out to be supportive. Just have to maintain that. As tough as it may be, an attitude of staying fresh, engaging in the fight, and accepting the help of all those around you is very important. Any time you engage in a battle of any sort, there's comfort in knowing there are people by your side. Certainly cancer is a horrible opponent, and it's important to know there are a lot of people standing with you.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

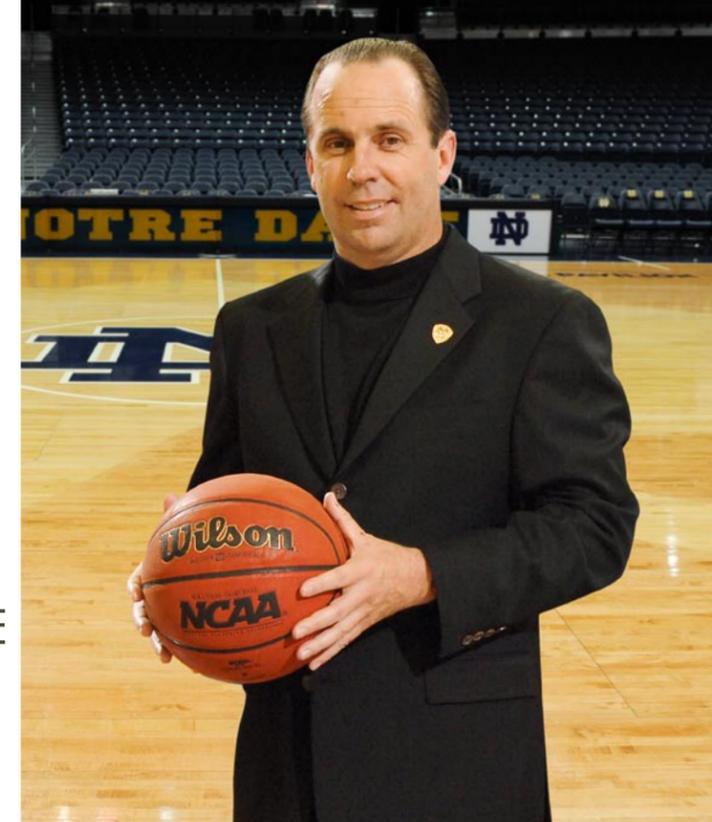
Member of the Coaches vs. Cancer Council • Holds a golf event to raise money and awareness

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

Led all five schools he has coached to 20-win seasons
• Teams have been to the postseason 17 times, including an NCAA Final Four appearance while he was at the University of Florida • Two-time Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year

FAMILY

Kruger and his wife Barbara have two children: Angie and Kevin.



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

MIKE BREY

How has cancer impacted you personally?

My father had a malignant melanoma in 1994. He has been able to beat it and has lived a great life. He's 80-years-old now. That's when cancer really got my attention.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

The power of a positive frame of mind. It seems the people who survive and beat cancer have such a positive frame of mind and believe that they WILL get healthy and beat it.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

Being positive and in a positive frame of mind that at the end of the day you will win the game versus cancer.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Member of the Coaches vs. Cancer Council • Has made advocacy appearances on behalf of the organization • Holds a CVC Basketball Gala at Notre Dame

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

Entering the 2010-11 season, has had eight NCAA Tournament appearances • 10 20-win seasons, and more than 300 victories in 15-year career • Back-to-back Big East Coach of the Year honors in 2007 and 2008

FAMILY

Brey and his wife Tish have two children: Kyle and Callie.



SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY

PHIL MARTELLI

How has cancer impacted you personally?

The coach who hired me at Saint Joseph's passed away from cancer and it was chilling to me. I think what we overlook sometimes, to be honest, is the ripple that occurs in a family. I don't think that the emotional trauma that this disease takes on families is talked about enough. I don't think we do enough as a society, not just for the person battling the disease, but also for the family unit that's battling the disease.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

I've learned about real courage. As coaches, we all talk about how hard our guys play or how hard an opponent plays. But when you meet, for example, kids on our campus who tell you about what they went through at the age of 13—in battling cancer—to see the courage and the fierceness is remarkable.

So many people have been so good to our Coaches vs. Cancer program in Philadelphia and they never see their name in print. Too much is made of the coaches' involvement. It's our responsibility. But the people who make the contributions, it's their decision to help. They're helping people they may never meet, and they may never get a thank you. It's really love and compassion and caring for your fellow man. Those are all lessons that resonate with me.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

I can promise them my thoughts and prayers. And to acknowledge to them that my drive is my family first, to win as many games as I can second, and then to hope that in our lifetime one day we'll be able to open the newspaper and there's only going to be two words on the front page. It's going to say "Cancer Free." Then all the wins and all the accolades and all the pats on the back will diminish. They mean nothing compared to the possibility of seeing those two words.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Hosts a Coaches vs. Cancer Basketball Gala in Philadelphia along with Temple Coach Fran Dunphy, Jay Wright of Villanova, Bruiser Flint of Drexel, Dr. John Giannini of LaSalle, and Jerome Allen of Penn • Participates in the Coaches vs. Cancer Golf Classic • Has made advocacy appearances on behalf of the organization

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

Led the Hawks to an undefeated regular season in 2003-04 and earned the school's first-ever number-one seed in the NCAA Tournament • Six 20-win seasons in the past 15 years • National Coach of the Year in 2004 and four-time Atlantic-10 Conference Coach of the Year

FAMILY

Phil and his wife Judy have three children: Phil, Jr., Jimmy, and Elizabeth.



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

FRAN MCCAFFERY

How has cancer impacted you personally?

I lost both of my parents to cancer. It was about that time when I became involved in Coaches vs. Cancer while in Greensboro. The national director of Coaches vs. Cancer is Jim Satalin and his assistant Bill Kalbaugh got me involved. Then when I got to Siena, in conjunction with the University of Albany, we started our own Gala raising about \$500,000 in four years. It's obviously a disease that has struck close to home having lost both my parents and grandmothers.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

I think the most important thing is education and early detection because some types of cancer, if detected early enough, are curable. If everyone gets checked, pays attention and doesn't ignore the signs, we can have much longer lives.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

My advice to those battling cancer-related illnesses is to keep fighting, and trust the doctors and technology. I know it is very difficult when chemotherapy and radiation are involved, but I have seen a number of people have great improvement. I also think it's important to have great family support to help through the most difficult times.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Member of the Coaches vs. Cancer Council • Holds a CvC Basketball Gala at Univ. of Iowa • Participates in the Coaches vs. Cancer Golf Classic

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

Has taken three different schools to the NCAA Tournament • Has a 100-percent graduation rate among recruits who have exhausted their eligibility during his tenure • 2009 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Coach of the Year

FAMILY

McCaffery and his wife Margaret have four children: Connor, Patrick, Jonathan, and Marit.



WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

BOB HUGGINS

How has cancer impacted you personally?

My mother had colon cancer. Also, my two grandfathers and other family members had cancer.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

The courage that a lot of people show and not taking days and life for granted.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

There's a saying out there, "don't give up, don't ever give up."

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Hosts a CvC tip-off breakfast

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

Guided WVU to its first Final Four appearance since 1959 and first ever Big East Conference championship last year • Ranks fourth in total victories and 10th in winning percentage among active Division I head coaches • Conference USA Coach of the Decade

FAMILY

Huggins and his wife June have two children: Jenna Leigh and Jacqueline.



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

ROY WILLIAMS

How has cancer impacted you personally?

I lost both my Mom and my Dad to cancer.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

I have been amazed by the positive attitudes of the people facing this battle and how all of them think of the effect on their families!

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

Take each day and each positive event as a great circumstance and realize how much people do care. There is a continuous fight going on to come up with a cure and it will happen.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Member of the Coaches vs. Cancer Council • Hosts an annual CvC tip-off breakfast • Participates in the Coaches vs. Cancer Golf Classic

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

Entering the 2010-11 season, has had 14 NCAA Tournament berths, seven Sweet Sixteen appearances, a pair of consecutive Final Four showings, and the 2002 National Championship • Maryland's all-time winningest head basketball coach • Named National Coach of the Year once and ACC Coach of the Year twice

FAMILY

Williams and his wife, Wanda, have a son, Scott, and a daughter, Kimberly.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

BRUCE WEBER

How has cancer impacted you personally?

My first awareness with the disease came at a young age, six-or seven-years-old, when we lost my grandmother to cancer. And unfortunately, it is something we've dealt with all too often over the years. I've lost uncles, aunts, my mother-in-law, a high school teammate, and friends. Being in the position I'm in now and being actively involved with Coaches vs. Cancer, you find out how many people are really affected by it, because you hear the stories, you meet people and you hear how it has touched families everywhere.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

The biggest lesson is to appreciate life. Cancer does not discriminate. It targets all age groups, all levels of health, and you don't know if you or a loved one could be next. Watching someone go through chemo and fight for his life, you admire his or her courage and resolve and it makes you look at life in a whole new way. You appreciate it more.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

Having a positive attitude is crucial. There are groups and organizations that are there and willing to be there for you, to help you and your family. The statistics have dramatically increased over the years. You see data referenced that as many as six or seven out of 10 people diagnosed with cancer have a chance at total recovery, depending on the type of cancer and age group. So the research, the work, the fight—it's all worth it. It is very encouraging and reassuring that we are headed in the right direction. Patients must remain positive and committed to the fight.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Member of the Coaches vs. Cancer Council • Holds major CVC fundraising events • Has made advocacy appearances on behalf of the organization

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

Six NCAA Tournament appearances • Back-to-back Big Ten Championships in his first two seasons with Illinois • National Coach of the Year in 2005

FAMILY

Weber and his wife Megan have three children: Hannah, Christy, and Emily.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

TOM IZZO



How has cancer impacted you personally?

I've been fortunate in that, so far, cancer has only touched my extended family and friends. But it's a disease that does affect everyone eventually. That's why the fight against cancer is such an important cause to me.

What lifelong lesson have you learned through your experiences with cancer and/or people who have been battling cancer?

I've learned that we must band together to find a cure for this dreaded disease. It's too big a fight for anyone to go it alone. In many ways, the fight against cancer is a team effort, much like a successful basketball team requires everyone pulling together towards the same goal. On a positive note, we have made great strides and advances in the fight, and I'm continually reminded that every little bit from every member of the team brings us closer to finding a cure.

People with cancer have also shown me that the will to live is very powerful. Some of the most remarkable people I've met are those battling the disease who maintain a wonderful spirit despite an exhausting fight. Their example shines through regardless of the situation, and is something we can all look to emulate.

What advice and encouragement can you offer those who are battling cancer-related illnesses?

It's tough to offer advice for something I've never had to deal with, but I always try to encourage them to stay positive and keep fighting. Jim Valvano's famous "Don't give up" speech still speaks to me after all these years. Its message is simple but powerful. A great attitude and hard work are the keys to success in all things in life.

COACHES VS. CANCER INVOLVEMENT

Holds major Coaches vs. Cancer fundraising events • Has been a national spokesman for the organization

COACHING HIGHLIGHTS

Has been to 13 straight NCAA Tournaments, including six Final Four appearances and a National Championship • Four-time National Coach of the Year • Is MSU's all-time winningest coach

FAMILY

Izzo and his wife Lupe have two children: Raquel and Steven.

ABOUT

COACHES VS. CANCER

Coaches vs. Cancer is a nationwide collaboration between the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches that empowers coaches, their teams, and communities to join the fight against cancer. Cancer has touched many in the coaching ranks, and the Coaches vs. Cancer program gives them a way to leverage their personal experiences, community leadership, and professional excellence to make a true impact. Through integrated fundraising activities and public awareness campaigns, participating coaches are helping the American Cancer Society save lives and create a world with less cancer and more birthdays by helping people stay well and get well, by finding cures, and by fighting back in every community.

THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

The American Cancer Society combines an unyielding passion with nearly a century of experience to save lives and end suffering from cancer. As a global grassroots force of more than three million volunteers, we fight for every birthday threatened by every cancer in every community. We save lives by helping people stay well by preventing cancer or finding it early; helping people get well by being there for them during and after a cancer diagnosis; by finding cures through investment in groundbreaking discovery; and by fighting back by rallying lawmakers to pass laws to defeat cancer and by rallying communities worldwide to join the fight. As the nation's largest non-governmental investor in cancer research, contributing more than \$3.5 billion, we turn what we know about cancer into what we do. Thanks in part to this work, more than 11 million people in America who have had cancer and countless more who have avoided it will be celebrating birthdays this year. To

learn more about us or to get help, call us anytime, day or night,
at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.



Since the formation of Coaches vs. Cancer in 1993, college basketball coaches have inspired thousands of people in the fight against cancer – both through their efforts to raise funds to fight the disease and increase awareness and education, as well as their actions to successfully battle cancer on a more personal level. *Coaching To Defeat Cancer* chronicles the success stories of nine basketball coaches who hope to inspire others going through their own cancer journey. The book also includes tips and advice from 18 prominent college basketball coaches who have been touched by cancer in some way and have joined efforts to help save lives from the disease. All of the coaches featured have demonstrated the strength, courage, determination, and faith that can make the difference in winning life’s greatest challenges.

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Coaches vs. Cancer is a nationwide collaboration between the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches that empowers coaches, their teams, and communities to join the fight against cancer. Through integrated fundraising activities and public awareness campaigns, coaches participating in the Coaches vs. Cancer program are helping the American Cancer Society save lives and create a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

COACHES VS. CANCER: THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY



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