



## Leland Maurice Bofto

May 23, 1934 - June 11, 2010

Lee Bofto 76 of East Wenatchee, WA passed away on Friday June 11th, 2010 after an extended illness. Lee was born in The Dalles, OR on May 23rd, 1934. He grew up in Great Falls, MT where he was a three sport letterman and an All State Football and Baseball player. Lee then attended the University of Montana in Missoula, MT on a football scholarship, and also played baseball during his college career. Lee met Shirley Thormley, whom he married and the two then moved to Yakima, WA to start there life together. He began his teaching and coaching career at Wilson Junior High School where he had 7 out of 8 undefeated seasons. This opened the door to the opportunity to move to Wenatchee, WA where he took over as the head football coach at Wenatchee in 1965. He was the head football coach from 1965 until 1984 where he accumulated a record of 143 wins, 49 losses and 3 ties. He also started the Wenatchee High School women's softball program in 1979 where he accumulated a record of 167 wins and 49 losses. During his tenure Coach Bofto was named Washington State Coach of the Year 4 times, Big Nine Coach of the Year 9 times, and was also inducted into both the Washington State Coaches Hall of Fame and the Wenatchee Panther Hall of Fame. Lee is survived by his wife Shirley, sons Brad of Eugene, OR, Brian of Issaquah, WA and Brent of East Wenatchee, WA along with his 7 grandchildren. The family would like to thank Dr. Pat Lynch, Dr. Bill Murray and Dr. Scott Schroeder for their dedicated care for Lee over the past few years. A celebration of Coach Bofto's life will be held at Lee Bofto Field at The Apple Bowl on Friday June

25th at 7:00pm.

# Tribute Wall

SF

“ I knew Leland as my husband, Ken Bofto's, cousin. Although I didn't get to know him well, we always admired and looked up to him. Leland was a leader in sports at Great Falls High. After he moved to Washington State we lost contact. Please accept my sincere condolences.

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**Sibley Redding (formerly Bofto) Fuller** - August 05, 2010 at 02:27 PM

BH

“ I was sorry to hear of the passing of our classmate of Great Falls High School 1952. It would be interesting to our many graduates of Great Falls High and to those who he played sports with to have his obituary notice in the Great Falls Tribune.

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**Beverly Nicolai Hedahl** - June 25, 2010 at 04:09 PM

JW

“ My heart was saddened to hear of the passing of our dear "Coach Bofto". I am so sorry for the pain the family is experiencing from your great loss. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you all. I hope and pray you are all feeling tremendous comfort during this time, and know for sure the many precious memories you all have are treasures that will never leave. I feel a closeness with you all in feeling such warm and wonderful memories myself of the "Coach Bofto Era". I have such wonderful memories of my days growing up in Wenatchee and High School years that he and the teams and my fellow cheerleaders were so much a special part of. Loving delightful memories for sure. One special memory that warms my heart is the appreciation he always showed not only our teams, but also honoring our cheerleading squad with a special "plaque of appreciation" that was a fun surprise, and such a kind gesture. That was so nice for all of us to receive. 1969 was my graduation year and we had such a special class and special years, that our dear Coach Bofto was such a huge part of. All our love and appreciation back to you "dear Coach".....and sincere heartfelt hugs to the whole family. I look forward to seeing you. So Sincerely,  
Jeanne Wayerski

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**Jeanne Wayerski** - June 25, 2010 at 01:42 PM

DD

“ Coach Bofto played a big part in my life and touched so many lives, doing what he loved to do. My thoughts are with coach Bofto and his family.

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**David Drollman** - June 24, 2010 at 11:00 PM

RF

“ To the Family of Lee Bofto,

*Lee mixed fairness and toughness to get the best out of you as a player . His example helped me many times in life , and I always was proud to have been a panther and to have played for a champion. He once told me when Mike Cockurn got hurt prior to the Davis game that I was to take his place and to take his number 74 so that Davis would not know Mike was out. He also said that if we lost the fault would be mine, so instead of going to history class that week I studied film on Davis. I was so focused on that game that even after we had won 49 to nothing , I was worried I had not played well enough to please him, and certainly not as well as Mike would have played. He knew how to motivate you and got the best out of you. I wonder how many other guys that week were told this games on them if we lose. No one wanted to let him down, the town down or themselves down.*

*Thank you for all you did in support of Lee and I hope all the good memories will light up your life always and be a comfort to you .*

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**Rebb Firman** - June 21, 2010 at 02:21 AM

HA

“ Thoughts and prayers are with the Bofto family. Will remember Mr Bofto for being fair and constructive.

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**Herb Anderson** - June 19, 2010 at 10:55 AM

K(

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all in Lee's passing. The pictures you have of him on here are exactly the way I remember him. He was such a presence in my high school years; such a great coach. May you find comfort in the fact that he helped mold so many fine young people.*

*Karen*

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**Karen Winter (Lee)** - June 18, 2010 at 02:41 PM