



## Leonard Perkins

November 10, 1939 - December 18, 2025

A true legend is gone.

On December 18th at 8:44 pm, Coach Leonard Francis Perkins passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loved ones at McLaren Macomb Hospital. He had eighty-six beautiful years on this Earth and he leaves behind a legacy that has touched thousands of lives, none more than his wife and partner of over thirty years, Denise Wendt. Perk (as many came to know him) was born the fourth of five children to George and Natalie Perkins in Newport, New Hampshire. He loved fishing, hunting and chopping wood as a young boy. He found his real passion, sports, as a teenager and decided to study Education at Indiana State University. He went on to receive a Masters in Physical Education at Central Michigan University. He settled down in the small town of New Baltimore, Michigan where he taught physical education and coached several sports teams at Anchor Bay High School. Perk is the only person in the history of the school system to be the head coach of the varsity men's football, basketball and baseball teams in the same year. Over forty plus years of teaching (and fifty as a coach), he built a Class A Athletic Department at ABHS. He also built a family of four sons and one daughter with his first wife Donna, all of whom were students at Anchor Bay and all of whom were taught to jitterbug and fox trot and waltz by their father in their freshman PE class. Lenny (as many others came to know him) solidified his legendary status on the baseball diamond where he amassed many victories and numerous

championships. He was inducted into not one but three prestigious institutions, The Michigan High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, the Macomb County Coaches Hall of Fame, and the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. He worked at Anchor Bay as a coach, teacher, and athletic director, Macomb Community College as head baseball coach for nine years, and lastly Algonac High School as head softball coach, leading the team to a state semifinal in 2022. He coached that team with his wife Denise, whom he shared several co-coaching positions over the course of their long and devoted relationship.

Dad (as a select few were lucky enough to call him) is survived by his sister, Jenny Brown, his wife, Denise Wendt, his children, Michael (retired teacher and administrator), Thomas (orthopedic surgeon), Daniel (teacher, coach, nominee for MHSAA Hall Of Fame), Stephen (US Naval veteran) and Kathleen (actress, writer, producer), along with four daughter-in-laws, a son-in-law, and twelve grandchildren and four great grandchildren. His legacy runs deep.

Len Perkins will be remembered for his devotion to his players, his keen eye for talent and drive, his strong work ethic, and his love of performance and competition, in sport and in art and in life. They say it doesn't matter if you win or lose, it's how you play the game. Well, that kid played it with grace and true grit. We will do our best to carry his torch, the ones he left behind.

Memorial visitation for Perk will be at the Wasik Funeral Home at 35259 23 Mile Road in New Baltimore, Michigan on Monday, December 22nd. Visitation is between 2 pm to 8 pm, service and devotion at 6 pm.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to The National Kidney Foundation or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **22**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Gendernalik Chapel  
35259 23 Mile Road  
New Baltimore, MI 48047

## Funeral Service

DEC **22**. 6:00 PM (ET)

Wasik Funeral Home - Gendernalik Chapel  
35259 23 Mile Road  
New Baltimore, MI 48047

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ We lived 2 houses away from all the Perkins my sisters baby sat . Coach Perkins i had for football and baseball in school. Katherine was in a crib last time i saw them altogether. One time we were away for football. I played defense and offense and kick off return. On the way home on the bus the football team stoped at McDonald's. I said im tired and coach herd me . The team ran extra laps at practice the next day. Coach made me stronger Thank you. John socha

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**John socha** - January 03 at 12:04 AM



“ RIP Mr Perkins. Great memories growing up with your family both in New Baltimore and Anchor Bay.  
With love,  
Stephanie Hageman Witkowski and family

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**Stephanie Hageman** - December 24, 2025 at 04:04 PM

DW

“ Tom and Family,

*I was very sad to hear about your dad passing away. I learned a lot from Perk when I coached with him at Macomb in the early 90s. He will be missed. Perk was a great man, a mentor to many coaches. He loved the game of baseball, loved coaching the kids and loved life. I have a feeling he's up there with Rudy (Furchak), and when they're done bickering about who is going to pay they tab, they will enjoy watching the game from the best seats in the house.*

*RIP, Perk.*

*Dave Walczyk*

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**Dave Walczyk** - December 23, 2025 at 12:13 PM

DB

“ *Thank you Perk for your dedication and spirit for all you've taught or coached. You're a hall of famer in all you've done. Rest well.*

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**Derek Brand** - December 22, 2025 at 11:18 PM

C'

“ *My condolences to the entire Perkins family. I have many fond memories of playing ball (1976 - 1978) for Coach Perkins and visiting with him. I always called him Coach when we talked but referred to him as Lenny to those that knew him. We had one major thing in common, besides the love for our families, we loved baseball. Coach - see you on that ball field in the sky.*

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**Cam Karry - AB Class of '78** - December 22, 2025 at 11:30 AM



“ 49 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Wasik Funeral Home, Inc.** - December 22, 2025 at 10:39 AM

JR

“ *Coach Perkins was not only a tremendous coach but great friend who I've known since 1988!*

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**Joe Roa** - December 21, 2025 at 10:17 PM

JR

“ *Joseph R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard Perkins.*

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**Joseph R.** - December 21, 2025 at 10:10 PM

AB

“ *He was my father's football coach and he was my weight lifting teacher. He was a great man and he will be missed.*

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**Alexander J. Butler** - December 21, 2025 at 07:33 PM

ME

“ Coach perkins was a very nice person, great coach, and always remembered former students. My husband and all 3 of my kids had him in high school. He will always be remembered. We are so sorry for your loss.

Monica E - December 21, 2025 at 07:06 PM

RF

“ Rev. Andrus & Deb Root Family purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Leonard Perkins.



Rev. Andrus & Deb Root Family - December 21, 2025 at 05:27 PM

RF

“ Rev. Andrus & Deb Root Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leonard Perkins.

Rev. Andrus & Deb Root Family - December 21, 2025 at 05:27 PM

TC

“ Sending condolences to the family!

Tracey and Vince Cantalupo - December 21, 2025 at 05:05 PM

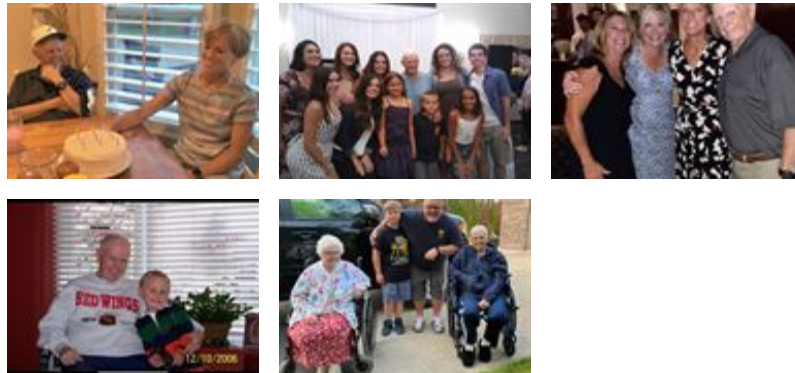
BK

1980-1982. Coach Perkins did so much for me and my baseball career. He was like my 2nd dad. Praised me when I did good, scolded me when I did something stupid. Made sure I kept up on my grades. He was always there for me if I needed to talk. Even during football season or basketball season, he always made sure I was ok. He will be missed. RIP Coach

Bill Krul - December 21, 2025 at 05:14 PM



“ 117 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wasik Funeral Home, Inc. - December 21, 2025 at 03:12 PM



“ He was a great coach and friend to my brother Mike. Perk, as my brother called him, meant a lot to him. I'm sure they are tossing a ball in heaven together. Prayers to the Leonard Perkins family. 🙏



-Genine (Figlan) Hodges

Genine - December 21, 2025 at 11:35 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Leonard Perkins.



December 21, 2025 at 11:25 AM



“ Coach Perkins you were a helluva coach and i hope you've found peade.

Gio Trapani - December 21, 2025 at 10:55 AM



“ *Deepest condolences to the family, loved him as a teacher! Such a great guy, always had a smile on his face!! ABHSclass of 1985*



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**Kristi Donaldson** - December 21, 2025 at 09:49 AM



“ *Great man and wonderful father. I will remember him with love and with a smile. From sister-in-law Kathy All*

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**kathleen All** - December 20, 2025 at 08:22 PM