



## Sylvester "Sonny" Smith

February 14, 1933 - September 29, 2019

Sylvester L. "Sonny" Smith, 86, passed away September 29, 2019 at Ebeid Hospice. He was born February 14, 1933 to Sylvester and Alma Smith in Toledo. A graduate of Woodward High School, Class of 1951, Sonny excelled in athletics, lettering in football, basketball and baseball. In 1951 he earned the Michigan Honor Trophy from the University of Michigan Club of Toledo. He graduated from the University of Toledo, Class of 1955, with a Bachelor's degree in education and played football and baseball for the Rockets. Sonny returned to Woodward following graduation from U.T. where he taught and coached football for over 40 years. In 1975 Woodward were City Champs and Sonny was named Coach of the Year. In 1990 he was inducted into the Woodward High School, Hall of Fame. In 1991 he was inducted into the City of Toledo Athletic League, Hall of Fame. In 2002 he was inducted into the Varsity T Club Hall of Fame and in 2016 he earned the Varsity T Club lifetime achievement award for his 25 years of service and serving as president. He was a radio announcer on WCWA with Don King for many years, calling Whitmer and Bowling Green football games.

Sonny is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Nancy; daughters, Janet (Fred) Szlachcic, Jill (Bill) Magginis; sons, Jeffrey (Penny) Smith, David (Amy) Smith; grandchildren, Nathan (Laura) Shipman, Kassie (Brent) Smith, Kyle (Jamie) Szlachcic, Chelsea Szlachcic, Bradley Smith, Nancy Magginis, Billy Magginis, Macy Smith and great granddaughter, Alexia Szlachcic. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Sherrie Shipman and grandsons, Corey

Smith and Deacon Bleu.

Friends are invited to visit from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM Thursday at Ansberg-West Funeral Home, 3000 Sylvania Avenue, where services will be held 1:00 PM Friday. Interment will follow at Toledo Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be made to ProMedica Hospice. Condolences for Sonny's family may be expressed online at [www.ansberg-west.com](http://www.ansberg-west.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Toledo Memorial Park

6382 Monroe Street  
Sylvania, OH 43560

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 3. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home  
3000 W. Sylvania Ave  
Toledo, OH 43613

## Service

OCT 4. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home  
3000 W. Sylvania Ave  
Toledo, OH 43613

# Tribute Wall

JF

“ I am so shocked to hear of my dear friend "Sonny"s passing. I just heard today Oct. 7,2019. We were at Woodward High School together. Although he was a year ahead of me we were close friends. I saw him many times over the years when I hosted the LPGA tournament in Toledo/Sylvania. My condolences to the entire family. With love and prayers, Jamie Farr (Jameel Farah)

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**Jamie Farr** - October 07, 2019 at 06:30 PM

NM

“ So very sorry for your loss. My husband, Mike Mathias, thought so very highly of him. God Bless. Norma Mathias

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**Norma Mathias** - October 03, 2019 at 05:06 PM

JS

“ My condolences to the Smith family. I will miss my breakfast friend and former teammate. God Bless  
Jim Suszka  
Clemson, SC

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**Jim Suszka** - October 03, 2019 at 01:06 PM

JH

“ I am sorry about Sonny passing. I am an old neighbor who lived next door to Sonny on Frederick St. We used on play together. I think of these old days often. I remember Alma and Syl and Carrie and Roy Studer. Sonny was two years older than me, and even tho I went to Central, I always followed his successes. Much love to you and your family, and prayers too. Janet Hack (formerly Nusbaum)

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**Janet Hack** - October 03, 2019 at 11:13 AM

DH

“ Dave(ITTY) & Smith family: Sorry for the loss of SONNY. He was a good guy and excellent football coach for the BEARS!! My sympathy and prayers are with you. May he R.I.P. DAVE HALL

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Dave Hall - October 03, 2019 at 10:55 AM

DF

“ My condolences to the Smith family at the passing of Sonny. He was a great man and coach who led us to a championship in 1975. I can still hear his gregarious voice encouraging and pushing us to achieve. He knew we could do it and we didn't want to disappoint him. He will be missed, but the fond memories of Sonny will live on in the memories of all the players that he coached.

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Dave Frankowski - October 02, 2019 at 06:55 PM

KB

“ My sincere sympathy to Nan and the family as they grieve the loss of Sonny. I remember him since many years ago my late husband, Don Bahna, taught with Sonny at Woodward, along with others including Jim Wilusz, Jim Knierim and Bob Geis, to name a few. Those were good days and I remember Sonny as being a man “larger than life”. I remember the fun at the Toledo Swim Club and the old Sunnyside Pool for all the kids in the neighborhood. Our memories are precious and help us through difficult times such as these. I will keep you all in my prayers. Kay Bahna

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Kay Bahna - October 02, 2019 at 01:46 PM

CK

“ My deepest condolences to the entire Smith family. Sonny was like a second father to me growing up and I'll always cherish the times spent with him and my father driving to games! RIH Sonny...

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Casey King - October 02, 2019 at 10:10 AM