



## Gary E. Nelson

August 9, 1937 - June 16, 2004

Coach Gary E. Nelson, age 66, of Glendive, passed away early in the morning, Tuesday, June 8, 2004, at his daughter's home in Missoula, with his family present. He was a well-known, respected high school teacher and coach. Memorial services will be held at 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 16, 2004 at the Dawson County High School Gymnasium in Glendive with Pastor Bob Weinberger officiating. A Celebration of Life will follow at the Eastern Plains Events Center in Glendive. Silvernale-Silha Funeral Home of Glendive is entrusted with arrangements. Memorials in Memory of Gary may be sent to Dawson Community College, P.O. Box 421, Glendive, MT 59330 to be used for a scholarship. Gary was born on August 9, 1937 in Billings, Montana, the son of Delbert and Arleta (Stockdale) Nelson. He moved with the family to Glendive in 1946. Gary graduated from Dawson County High School in 1954. He played football, basketball, baseball and track. He was Quarterback for the 1954 state champion football team. Gary played in the 1955 East-West Shrine Game where he set a state record. Gary graduated from Dawson Community College in 1958 and from Rocky Mountain College in Billings in 1961. He played football, basketball and baseball for the Bears. Gary married Darolyn Madison on August 27, 1960 in Beach, North Dakota. After his graduation from Rocky, Gary accepted a teaching and coaching position in Wolf Point, Montana. They won the state basketball tournament in 1962. In 1964, Gary moved to Glendive to teach and coach. In 1965, Gary was the head basketball for the Red Devils in the Big 32. He coached alongside Bill Kelly,

Tom Roe, Bob Lowry and Jim Person. Gary loved sports. And, as many know and remember, he was very good at it. But, as a coach at Dawson County High School for 38 years, layups, touchdowns, triples and birdies were just scores on paper. For Coach, and the young men and women under his tutelage, the numerals on the ledger at the end of a big match only told part of the story. The tally was not about who won or lost, but who received the most. In confidence. In themselves. The ability to learn skills and to apply effort, was truly the goal. The score at the final tick was secondary to achievement. And for those who had trouble with their skills, Gary would coax with comedy. He could win the apprentice's heart with his easy comradery. Gary was truly the players coach. No one left behind. And Gary can rest easy knowing that we will always love him for that gift, that of respecting individual character. Regardless of the score. He is survived by his wife, Darolyn of Glendive; two daughters, Darla Steubs and her husband Bryan of Missoula, Montana and Sara Nelson of Bellevue, Washington; one brother, Fred Nelson and his wife Doryne of Bremerton, Washington; one sister, Susan Eaton and her husband Jack of Billings; in-laws, Dick and Marla Bach of Sacramento, California and many nieces and nephews. Gary will be deeply missed by all that knew him and loved him. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: [www.silvernale-silhafuneralhome.com](http://www.silvernale-silhafuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Gary was a great coach, particularly due to the kind of human being he was, present, positive, kind. He made playing on his team much more rewarding than our record indicated.

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**Randy McIntyre** - December 21, 2024 at 01:53 PM



“ Gary E. Nelson

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December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM