

James R. "Jocko" Harris, PHS Football Coach and History Teacher



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James R. "Jocko" Harris, 76, of Amarillo died Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007.

Coach Harris was born Sept. 15, 1930, in Vega to Claude and Bernice Harris. He married Jacqueline Wright on Feb. 14, 1952, in Canyon.

He was a standout athlete who began his coaching career as an assistant football coach at Stratford in 1955 and coached for 27 years, including 17 years as head coach. He coached at Vega 1955-56, Phillips 1956-68, South Garland 1969-71 and Tascosa High School 1972-81. His overall record was 97-79-3, which included five district titles. He remained at Tascosa as a teacher until he retired in 1989. Harris was inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Association's Hall of Honor in July 1996.

Survivors include his wife, Jackie; two daughters, Kim Hazelbaker and husband John of Amarillo and Kryn Howell and husband Dennis of Marvel, Colo.; a sister, Helene McClure of Canyon; three granddaughters, Kassi Hovey and husband Eric of Albuquerque, N.M., Kakki Brown and husband Fred of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Halee Hazelbaker of Amarillo; a grandson, Ky Hazelbaker of Amarillo; a great-grandson, Davis Hovey of Albuquerque; a great-granddaughter, Caitlin Hovey of Albuquerque; and a very special man, James E. Garrett.