



## Michael Edward Maser

March 2, 1947 - July 14, 2019

Michael Edward Maser, 72, passed on July 14, 2019, in Charlotte, North Carolina. Mike, or as he was affectionately known, Coach Maze, was born on March 2, 1947, in Plattsburgh, New York, and grew up in Clayton, New York. Mike would go on to play college football at the University of Buffalo where his love of teaching and the sport led to a career as a football coach at both the college and professional levels.

Mike shaped the lives of many young men as a college offensive line coach during a 22 year career that saw stops at Marshall University, Bluefield State University, University of Maine, and Boston College. At BC, he coached in several New Year's Day bowl games, and watched as his lineman blocked for and protected Doug Flutie to BC's historic 'Miracle in Miami' in November 1984, a play that solidified Flutie's Heisman Trophy Award that same year. Almost a decade later Coach Maze was still on the sidelines at BC as part of the coaching staff that led the Eagles to the defeat of the then #1 ranked Notre Dame Fighting Irish, 41-39, on a historic last second field goal in November 1993. In 1994, after 13 years at BC, Coach Maze made the jump to the NFL.

Over the next 14 years as a professional coach, Coach Maze served as offensive line coach for the Jacksonville Jaguars, Carolina Panthers, and Miami Dolphins. Coach Maze was a part of the Jaguars original coaching staff, where he went to the playoffs four times, won two AFC Central Division titles, coached in two Conference Championships, and two Pro Bowls. While he was there, the Jaguars were considered, in most circles, to be the most successful expansion franchise in professional sports history. During his six years in Carolina, Coach Maze coached an offensive line that led the team to two Conference Championship games and Super Bowl XXXVIII. Coach Maze's last year as a professional coach was in 2008, for the Miami Dolphins. The year before his arrival saw the Dolphins finish the 2007 season with a record of 1-15. In 2008, however, the Dolphins won the AFC East with an 11-5 record and completed the greatest single season turnaround in NFL history.

Despite the station he reached in his professional life, his career never defined him and

his professional success paled in comparison to his accomplishments as a devoted husband, father, granddad, and friend. His love for life showed in the way he lived it. He was a man of extraordinary faith and devotion. He was a mentor to many and his quick wit, sense of humor, laugh, and his balanced approach to life and work were the traits that grounded him, made him the man he was, and endeared him to many. Mike retired from coaching in 2009 and made a seamless transition into retirement life. He had a passion for golf and he was a staple at Firethorne Country Club, where everyone affectionately called him 'Coach'. When he wasn't working on his golf game, he spent time with his wife of forty-eight years, Barbara, and visited family and friends around the country.

Mike is survived by his wife Barbara (Sartini), his children, Brigitte Bradley (Kevin) of Las Vegas, Nevada; Greg (Cara) of Madison, New Jersey; Brian (Jennifer) of Duxbury, Massachusetts, and by his six grandchildren, whom he loved unconditionally, Isabella, Mia, Dominic, Sadie, Thomas and Lola. He is also survived by his sister, Maureen Littlefield, of Clayton, New York.

Mike was predeceased by his loving mother Margaret.

We invite family and friends alike to a Funeral Mass to be held on Friday, August 2, 2019, at 12:45 pm, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, Charlotte, North Carolina 28277. Flowers respectfully declined. Memorial contributions may be made to the Northern New York Community Foundation, 131 Washington Street, Watertown, New York 13601, designated for the 'Margaret Maser Scholarship Fund'.



# Comments

---



“ im part of his family, im am his grandchild i get sad looking at these images



**dominic maser** - October 04, 2019 at 10:26 AM

---



“ My wife and I first met Mike and his family at the wedding of his sister-in-law, Diane Sartini, to my good friend and his future brother-in-law, Eli Maslekoff. I was struck by how genuine he and his entire family were.

Over the years, we'd occasionally attend a game or two during the year of the Jacksonville Jaquars when they were in Baltimore or up at the Meadowlands. Or, I'd run into him at some sort of family function Eli was having and to which I was invited. Nothing changed! He still had a great sense of humor and was a "salt of the earth" kind of guy.

I can't say i knew him real well but you didn't have to know him that well to see that he was a good person and a great family man.

I am deeply sorry for his family's loss.

Ron Lucarini

**ron lucarini** - July 22, 2019 at 06:44 PM

---



“ Coach Mase was a terrific Coach and better man. As a QB at BC we always appreciated the tremendous work ethic and performance of Coach and his lineman. Always had a smile unless something went wrong. I am fortunate to have been coached and befriended by Mase. When he was with the Panthers he graciously allowed myself and my young son attend a practice, while we were waiting for BC to play in Mienke Bowl. Thank you Coach for making a positive difference in all the lives you touched. Rest In Peace!

John Loughery 82'

**John Loughery** - July 18, 2019 at 09:54 PM



“ Coach Maze was and is a "mans man". He was a great teacher and Coach. He was intelligent, tough and caring as well. I am saddened by this loss. I pray for him and for his family. A real freaking GREAT GUY!!!  
With True Respect,  
Brian Krysoforski ("Krysto " class of 1984)

**Brian Krysoforski** - July 18, 2019 at 07:03 PM

---



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Bobby Vissers** - July 18, 2019 at 02:12 PM

---



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



**Bobby Vissers** - July 18, 2019 at 02:11 PM

---



“ I remember Mike from high school where he wrestled and played football with my brother, Nick!! I am sure they are reminiscing about those days in heaven. RIP Mike!!!

Bonnie Reff-higgins

**bonnie reff higgins** - July 17, 2019 at 06:05 PM

---



“ I've know Mike since kindergarten. The Masers lived next to Saint Marys where we both went to elementary school and I would spend many hours at Mike's house after school because I didn't want to go home right away. We both wrestled for Clayton High School and we both won many matches for our championship team. After high school I didn't see him that much. He would come to a Blue Oyster Cult show now and then when we would play nearby to where he was living.

I saw him last on the Clayton Golf Course when he asked to play through our slow family 4-some in the mid-2000s. He seemed very fit and was having a good game. He said he had just retired. It was great catching up that time and I thought I might see him again there as it was a family ritual for us. Goodby my dear friend I will never forget you. Say hi to Bronco for me.

**Albert Bouchard** - July 17, 2019 at 01:35 PM

---



“ I was blessed to play for Coach Maser at Bluefield State College. Coach helped me mature on and off the field, and remains a tremendous influence on my life not only as a coach, but as a husband, father, and grandfather. My prayers and heartfelt sympathies to his family.

**Tom Goforth** - July 16, 2019 at 06:48 PM

---



“ Marshall Shumsky lit a candle in memory of Michael Edward Maser



**Marshall Shumsky** - July 16, 2019 at 04:36 PM