

## **Daily News Report**

Newburyport head football coach Ed Gaudiano described his team as "shocked" yesterday in the wake of the news that longtime Newburyport assistant football coach Larry Smith died unexpectedly Saturday.

According to Gaudiano, Smith was scheduled to scout an out-of-town game Friday evening, but never made it to the game. The cause of death has not been confirmed, but Gaudiano said yesterday it "looks like a heart attack."

Smith received a kidney transplant 15 years ago and encountered a variety of health issues before his death at 48.

The Lawrence native started coaching at Newburyport in 1999. That season, current Newburyport hockey coach Paul Yameen accepted a position as an assistant coach on Gaudiano's staff, and he recommended Smith, a childhood friend, for another coaching vacancy.

"I mentioned Larry because he was a good player at Central Catholic, and he was knowledgeable and dedicated," Yameen said. "Eddie interviewed him, and he was there ever since. He was a very dedicated guy, intense, knowledgeable — a big guy with a big heart. The kids liked him; he had a great rapport with them."

Yameen grew up down the street from Smith in Lawrence. He was a freshman at Lawrence High when Smith was a senior at Central Catholic. The two remained in touch through their adult lives, and both lived at Salisbury Beach at the time of their hire as Newburyport assistants.

"Paul suggested I look (Larry) up and see if he was available," Gaudiano said. "At the time, he was at Whittier Tech. I knew of him, but I had no idea he'd be such a great addition to our staff."

Smith coached the defensive line at the varsity level, and also helped with the junior varsity and freshmen teams. As his health deteriorated in recent years, he did more scouting and film work.

"He was old-school," Gaudiano said. "He was a throwback. I think that's good for kids now to see someone like that. He was a good old-fashioned, hard-nosed coach who demanded a lot from the kids. When it came down to it, he'd do anything for the kids too."

Gaudiano said the entire Newburyport football team will attend the funeral tomorrow (10 a.m.) at St. Michael's Church in North Andover.

"We're still in shock," Gaudiano said. "We told them Sunday; it's the juniors and seniors who knew him best. They were in shock too. We're going to the funeral as a team. I think all of the kids want to go to pay their respects. We'll do it together."

## **Obituary**

LAWRENCE — Lawrence J. Smith, Jr., 48, of Lawrence died unexpectedly Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011 at his residence.

Larry was born on May 9, 1963 in Marlborough. He attended Lawrence schools and graduated Central Catholic High School in 1981.

He was previously employed at Raytheon for many years.

Larry loved playing football as a youth and coaching football at Newburyport High School. He enjoyed Salisbury Beach as well as following all Boston sports teams, especially the Red Sox and Patriots. He will be dearly missed by his family and many friends.

Larry is survived by his mother, Florence (Mondalto) (Smith) Cincotta and her husband Fred Cincotta of North Andover; his three sisters, Laura Sullivan and her husband Robert of Plaistow, N.H., Lisa Robinson and her husband Frank of North Andover and Linda McInnis and her husband James of Bradford. Also among his survivors are his nieces, Jillian, Alexandria, Courtney and Kaitlyn and his nephews, Joel, Frankie, James and Nicholas. Larry was predeceased by his father, Lawrence J. Smith Sr.