

Bernie Conboy was one of the original founders of the Orland Park Sparks; he passed away this week and was laid to rest today. The Softball world lost a pioneer. He along with a few other gentlemen are responsible for what softball is today in the Chicago Metro area. We not only lost an important member of the Sparks family, but I have lost a friend that I have known and respected for many years.

For those of us who knew Bernie know that he would do anything to help a child, or for that matter anyone. He never had a bad word about anyone and was always there when needed.



The last 10 years of Bernie's life were very difficult health wise, from having several heart attacks, lung problems, and several years ago, having a severe fall that made it very difficult for him to walk. He never gave up and worked hard until he could walk with assistance. His last year or two he spent in and out of the hospital, but would never complain and he taught me how to rebound from sickness or injury.

Bernie Conboy affected many young ladies' lives and was always a person of joy win or lose. On Friday night, many of the original Sparks players came to pay their respect to a great coach, friend and person he would have been proud to see them.



Bernie on behalf of the Sparks family you will be missed and always remembered.

Thank you for everything. May you rest in peace. I know you are watching down on your family and your Sparks family.

— Tom DiBiase
Longtime Sparks Coach, Administrator