



Paula Rogers Jones

July 4, 1950 - December 12, 2024

Coach Paula Jones, a celebrated educator and coach, passed away on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at her home in Sharpsburg, Georgia, surrounded by love and family. She was 74 years old.

Born on July 4, 1950, in Mullins, South Carolina, Paula Rogers Jones was the beloved daughter of Warren and Robbie Rogers. She grew up in Mullins with her siblings, Heny and Gayle, and excelled as a student-athlete. Her determination and talent earned her a place at Winthrop College, where she played basketball and achieved numerous accolades, including captaining her team and leading them to a state championship.

Paula dedicated her life to education, earning her master's degree in Physical Education from West Georgia University in 1993. Over her 41-year career as a physical education teacher and coach, she inspired generations of students and athletes, leaving a legacy of excellence and perseverance.

She began her teaching and coaching career in Lake City, Florida, and later coached at schools in Ohio, South Carolina, and Georgia. Paula achieved tremendous success as a coach, amassing over 518 career wins as a varsity girls' basketball coach. Her teams were frequently recognized at regional and state levels, winning championships and earning her numerous coaching awards, including Georgia's Winningest Coach Award and the prestigious Russell Athletic/WBCA Victory Club Award.

Beyond basketball, Paula made significant contributions to volleyball, softball, and track programs, pioneering and excelling in these sports as a coach. Her ability to lead and inspire was evident not only in her teams' achievements but also in her role as a mentor to countless young athletes. At East Coweta High School, where she spent the final 25 years of her career, Paula served as the Physical Education Department Head and volunteered with the Coweta County Special Olympics. Her impact extended far beyond the court, touching the lives of her students, colleagues, and community members.

In 2015, Paula was inducted into the Coweta Sports Hall of Fame, a fitting tribute to her storied career and enduring contributions to athletics and education. Paula is survived by her loving husband of 30 years, Griff Jones; her son, Lee (Hannah) Heaberlin; and her cherished granddaughters. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend who will be remembered for her unwavering spirit, compassionate heart, and fierce dedication to her family and students.

A celebration of Paula's life will be held at 11 am Thursday, December 19, 2024, at Turin Methodist Church. The visitation is Wednesday between 4-8 pm at McKoon Funeral Home, 38 Jackson St, Newnan. Her family wishes to express their gratitude for the outpouring of love and support during this time. The interment service is 4 pm Sunday, December 29, 2024 at Macedonia Methodist Church Cemetery, 402 N. Main St, Mullins, SC 29574

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Paula Jones Scholarship through West Georgia University online at <https://giving.westga.edu/prj/>

Condolences may be expressed online at www.mckoon.com
McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

Macedonia Methodist Church Cemetery

402 N. Main Street
Mullins, SC 29574

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **18**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Funeral Service

DEC **19**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Turin Methodist Church
20 Longstreet Avenue
Turin, GA 30289

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Paula Rogers Jones*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - December 18, 2024 at 04:46 PM



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Paula Rogers Jones*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - December 17, 2024 at 12:47 PM

JL

“ So sorry to hear of Miss Paula's passing. I had the pleasure of getting to know her when she coached Girl's Basketball Camps at The Hunter Complex. I always loved our conversations and she certainly enjoyed talking about her "precious Griff and Lee". I remember her calling her "sweetest and most thoughtful Griff" to bring her something from home - and it was delivered promptly and with love.

No doubt she blessed each of those basketball participants.

Juanita Linch

Juanita Linch - December 20, 2024 at 01:53 AM

LA

“ I remember what a great basketball player she was at Mullins High School. She was a year ahead of me. With Mullins being such a small town, everyone knew each other and had the best time growing up in the 60s. Paula was a kind and sweet person. Sending love and prayers to her family.

Laura Atkinson - December 19, 2024 at 08:42 PM

JB

“ Our deepest sympathies, thoughts, prayers and love to Paula's family and friends.

Jane and Jim Belous - December 19, 2024 at 08:33 AM

FG

“ Carl and I are saddened to hear of your loss. Lee and Griff we are praying for you and the family. Remember the Lord always finds the most comforting ways to help us through our hardest times. Carl and Felicia Griffin



Felicia and Carl Griffin - December 18, 2024 at 08:51 PM

JB

“ Sending my deepest condolences to the family , Coach Jones was the standard in High School Girl Basketball 🏀 Nothing but Respect . Take your rest

James Baker - December 18, 2024 at 04:24 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paula Rogers Jones.

December 16, 2024 at 02:06 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Paula Rogers Jones.



December 16, 2024 at 02:06 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Paula Rogers Jones.

December 15, 2024 at 03:04 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Paula Rogers Jones.*



December 15, 2024 at 02:21 PM



“ *Paula graduated from Winthrop College a few years before I did. Coming to know her through basketball clinics at EC for my girls and sharing our love for Winthrop and Clemson I found a true friend.*

Jane Werner - December 15, 2024 at 12:49 PM



“ *I had the privilege of substitute teaching alongside of Paula and actually subbing for her over the decades. She was truly dedicated to her students and was a wonderful influence upon them. I am praying for all of her loved ones.*

Susan Weegar - December 15, 2024 at 08:42 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Willene Brown - December 14, 2024 at 11:08 PM

WB

“ *Willene Brown lit a candle in memory of Paula Rogers Jones*



Willene Brown - December 14, 2024 at 11:07 PM

NA

“ *A great person and coach!*

Natalie - December 14, 2024 at 10:18 AM

MH

“ *Paula and I played softball together when we were young. I loved watching her play. The best shortstop ever. With me being a younger member of the team, she was always kind. She will be greatly missed!! Love and Prayers!!*

Mary Lynn Hinson - December 13, 2024 at 08:49 PM

CB

“ *It was a joy to know Paula. She is a beautiful person inside and out and I will never forget her sweet smile. My heart and prayers are with her family. Cathy Brinkman*

Cathy Brinkman - December 13, 2024 at 05:07 PM