

Guest Book Entries for

Marvin Brannon Overby

We will all miss Marvin very much but he will live on through the dedicated bowlers who he inspired at Crenshaw. For us, we will miss the the many pit stops on bowling trips for coffee, a cheery face at Crenshaw, and a wonderful coach. But I know Marvin will be with us with every ball we throw and cheering us on at every tournament because he was a true Seminole through and through. We will never forget his dedication and spirit and he will be greatly missed.

Christina Doherty and James Grimsley (Tally/Jax, FL)

Last week we lost a giant. Buddy Overby was a quiet man with a gentle way who commanded our attention with a caring manner. So many wonderful things have been spoken and written about this kind man. His children have spoken so impassionedly of his devotion to family. Friends, students and co-workers have shared their feelings of loss. However, the essence of Buddy cannot be captured by the written or spoken word, but in the godly way he conducted himself as a faithful father, brother, husband and friend. This, then is the incomparable legacy he has left us.

Sherman (Buzzy) Overby (Ormond Beach, FL)

Marvin never was one to toot his horn. He always thought of others without one bad thing to say about anyone. There maybe things that

he didn't like, but nothing that couldn't be forgiven in an instant. I will never forget the smile that was always on his face. That smile was contagious to everyone around him. In between classes all I had to do is make a quick stop off at Crenshaw lanes and the big smile was there waiting for me. Then it was time for a cigarette break 50 paces away from the union was where we shared many conversations. I will always remember Marvin as a coach, a teammate and most importantly as my friend.

Michael Rooks (Clearwater)

It was an honor to know Marvin. During my four years at Florida State, he provided a smile and friendly conversation regardless of the time or circumstances. Marvin was not officially the coach of the bowling team when I was there, but he still was an integral part of the team. He was my coach for two years on the billiard team, a role for which he received little recognition despite having three national champions during his tenure. Marvin certainly didn't mind, and perhaps liked it that way. He was a truly selfless leader. I also had the pleasure of working with Marvin at Crenshaw. He was as great a boss as he was coach, always understanding of mistakes and providing excellent instruction. He will be missed.

Lance Roy (San Diego, CA)

I never had the chance to be coached by Marvin and from reading what many of the players have said I really missed a great opportunity. I got to know Marvin through the team and through the leagues that we ran at Crenshaw. He will be some one that we all miss having around and miss talking too. This up coming season

will be the toughest to get through, but I am sure this will bring a lot of people closer together and I think Marvin would have loved to see that.

Derick Proulx (Tallahassee, FL)

Many of you knew him as Marvin...there were also those of us who knew him as "Uncle Buddy". I had the privilege of being his nephew, and also the great privilege to live with him for about eight months of my early 20's. It was a life changing experience for me. He was very firm in the things he taught me, and I learned lessons that will remain with me for the rest of my life. I love him dearly and will cherish the memories. Mel, Kel, and Matt...cousins...I Love You and my prayers are with you. My heart aches with your loss. Dad, I can't describe the grief I feel when I hear the grief in your voice. Aunt Joyce, Aunt Kathy, and all the rest of our family...through the pain we can look to the time when we will have the best family reunion yet... I Love You All!

To the folks at FSU that saw Marvin on a daily basis, I can imagine the hole he left there, because I know the hole he left in my own heart. My prayers are with you also.

Chris Overby (Big Sandy, TX)

I would like to express my deepest sympathy to everyone that knows and loves Marvin. He is an exceptional person and you can see his influence on the people around him. Take comfort that he has positively effected many people across the country. He is greatly missed.

Andy Van Remortel (Green Bay, WI)

Marvin was a very special man to many people. It is hard to describe the effect he had on people. He seemed to have this way of seeing the positive side of everything. Whether it was just a bad day or a serious problem, he always had a smile and some kind and thoughtful words to help guide you through the situation.

We have had the pleasure of knowing Marvin for more than 6 years. In that time, he has become more than a coach, a teacher, a mentor. He was truly a friend.

As a coach and teacher he had a quote: "Great teams are made of great attitudes, not just great talent." He lived and led by these words as his attitude for life was second to none. He believed that you could accomplish anything if you had the right attitude.

As a mentor, he passed on his views to the many lives he touched during his time at Florida State. You didn't have to be a member of the bowling team to be infected with Marvin's great attitude. Just by knowing him, it sort of rubbed off on you.

As a friend, Marvin was irreplaceable. He treated every person as if they were special and made every person feel like part of his family. He loved his family dearly and he loved his students as if they were his own. To many, he was also like a father.

We recently had the pleasure of spending some time with Marvin when he visited our home with some of the team. We talked and played games until it was beyond Marvin's bedtime.

We have many memories of Marvin; memories from bowling trips, long chats during a coffee break or on the phone, a few slot machines in Las Vegas. These are all memories that we will treasure.

Marvin has gone to a better place. As a devoted Christian, he has moved home and his family can take comfort in knowing that he is an angel watching over us.

Marvin will be dearly missed. However, his memory and legacy will remain at Crenshaw Lanes. While it may not be the same without him there, he will always be with us.

God bless his family and friends.

Stephen and Brandy Padilla (Winter Haven, FL)

My sister married into the Overby family, making Marvin her father-in-law. He never called himself her father-in-law however; she was known to him as his daughter-in-love. Unfortunately, I did not get to spend much time with Marvin, but he is probably the most lovable person I've ever met. His gentleness and kindness did not go unappreciated. My sister held him dear to her heart and I know he will be missed.

I'll never forget after dinner, he would step outside for "dessert." He also laughed as my sister and I sung "oldies" together.

He was precious.

Praise God this place is not eternity.

Marvin is now in Jesus' arms..what a comforting thought. My prayers are with all the family.

Jaime Hughes (Dandridge, TN)

I remember the first time I ever talked to Marvin. He came up to me after tryouts my freshman year, and I thought he was someone's grandfather or something. He told me he was so happy to have me here and made me feel so welcomed. Over the years our relationship grew to be a great friendship and full of respect and love. He told me just 2 weeks ago that he looked at me as a daughter to him, and I realized that he was like a father to me. He made me feel like I had family here and he took care of me even when I lost a member of my own. I will miss him so much. Crenshaw is just not the same without him. It feels like something is truly missing everyday. I miss his "good mornings" everyday and the way he gets excited about every little thing that happens in each our lives. He was truly one of God's angels that I am so glad that I had the privilege to know and love. Thank you, Marvin. You will be in my heart always.

Rachel Figueroa (Tallahassee, FL)

What can one say when you lose an important member of the family. I've had the distinct honor and privilege to know and appreciate such a fine man. I've been one of the luckiest people on earth to know Marvin and call him my friend. Marvin was such an honorable, moral and ethical man. He was a great family man who took intense pride in his three children. Having recently visited with Marv all he could talk about was his children and grandchildren. It was unbelievable how much pride and love for them he possessed. Marvin, I know you are in a better place. The good Lord called you

home.

George Cejka (Mankato, MN)

I feel very honored to have known Marvin. He was a very special person. He really loved everyone around him. Best wishes for his family.

Stacy Guthrie (Davenport, FL)

Its so hard to put into words what all this means. Marvin was much more than just a boss or a coach, he was a great friend and an even better mentor. I learned from him things that I will carry with me for the rest of my life, and I can only hope to share the things he taught me with others. He had so much wisdom to share with us as long as we took the time to listen. I'll never forget sitting in his office with him or going out on one of his "breaks" and just talking. Its hard to find someone that has a truly genuine feeling for everyone he comes in contact with. This is a really difficult time, but Marvin managed to bring us all together as one big family, and together we will get through this. I know hes up there right now with a cup of coffee looking down on us smiling. Thank you so much Marvin for everything you've done. I'm a better person because of you, and I hope I can somehow make you proud. GO NOLES...

Samuel Pasley IV (Tallahassee, FL)

I am struggling to write what needs to be said about Marvin. As a quiet man he did so many things to help the students that came through the Florida State bowling program. He believed that a positive attitude was the most important thing for his bowlers to have. Marvin definitely led by example.

Marvin would really not like this forum. He would appreciate all the nice things being said about him, but Marvin was much too humble to ever accept them. That is all more reason to do it. I am honored to have had the pleasure of spending 12 years with you working on building The Florida State bowling program, and will continue to do so.

Your family can take comfort in knowing that you were a devoted Christian, and that you have earned your eternal life in heaven.

Dennis Sheirs (Sebring, FL)

To the Florida State University Bowling Team:

My thoughts and prayers are with you during this very difficult time.

I met Marvin in 2001 at the Brunswick Collegiate Open in Lake Zurich, Illinois. I was there to promote the Sport Bowling program because the Tier I event used Sport Bowling lane patterns. Marvin and I would discuss the differences in the lane patterns and what it would do to a bowler's skills.

After that time, Florida State University became the first university

to host a Sport Bowling league for its collegiate team. It was a very exciting time for me because I had been pushing for the collegiate teams to participate on Sport Bowling lane conditions to prepare for the IBC National.

Marvin and I kept in contact through much of my time at ABC/WIBC, and when I saw the team again in 2003 at the Brunswick Collegiate Open, he told me the success of the program for the men's and women's team. I was hooked on FSU team's, and I made sure to promote their program to various high school bowlers that were looking for an awesome program.

Marvin found out that I was being recruited to work for Kegel, and the look on his face when I told him that I was on my way to Florida was awesome. He was extremely excited for me and glad that I would have a better opportunity to work in the area I excel at: the lane machines.

Marvin was always a big supporter of Sport Bowling, and I know that the FSU teams really thrived on it. I was honored to work with him for the four years that I could, and I know that I will miss him very much. It will be difficult to not call up to Crenshaw and ask for Marvin to work on the Sport patterns for the 2004-2005 season.

However, Marvin is in a good place. He will follow us through the tournaments, support us, and be there in spirit.

God Bless, Marvin. Good Luck to the Florida State University Bowling Teams. Know that I am supporting your efforts every step of the way.

Nichole DePaul (Lake Wales, FL)

Marvin was always supportive and a friend when you needed him the most. I will miss our great conversations and his passion for the bowling industry. Marvin will be greatly missed and irreplaceable in the bowling and FSU community.

Brian Weeks (Atlanta, GA)

Marvin was not only a great coach and a great leader, but he was also a great friend. He would go out of his way to help anyone and everyone. I will never forget the times I spent with him and the bowling team at all the tournaments. When we finished 2nd at Nationals that year and we had an interview with the local television station, Marvin said that we were just like family to him. From that day forward I knew what a spectacular person he was. I am so grateful to have had Marvin apart of my life for the past 5 years. All the time we spent together, at and away from the bowling center, will be times that I will always cherish. He made me a better person and a better bowler just by having a better attitude. His favorite quote, "Good teams are not just made up of good talents, but good attitudes." This sums up the person that Marvin was, always having a positive outlook on life and this is truly how I have tried to structure my life for the past years and for the future. Thank you Marvin.

Tony Corrao (Lake Wales, FL)

I haven't been able to walk into Crenshaw yet, mainly because I

know when I walk to my locker there won't be a smile to greet me at the end of the hallway. I've only been on the team for one year but Marvin seemed like a member of my own family. Although there won't be any coffee/cig breaks on our road trips this year, I know he's there in spirit. He is truly irreplaceable to Crenshaw, the team, and myself.

Thank you Marvin for being there so many times this year and pushing me to go on. This year...the title will be for you, in your memory and in your honor. We love you and you will be missed greatly!

With Love, Ash

Ashley Miller (Tallahassee, FL)

Marvin was one of the kindest light hearted people I know. I will miss his kind gestures and the many long conversations we had over the years. It has been hard coming and going through our watering hole without seeing his smiling face. However, I feel that he will always be in Crenshaw the place that he loved so dearly. His love and legendary southern charm will echo through the building for lifetimes to come. I only hope to one day have the chance to see how beautiful our beloved Marvin saw the world. My sincerest condolences and love to everyone who was touched by Marvin; I will miss him more than words can describe.

Taryn Sybol (Tallahassee, FL)

Marvin was a person with inspiration. It took a lot to rain on his parade and there was nothing a bag of boiled peanuts couldn't fix. I

learned so much from being coached by him, you never know someone until they coach you. For this, I am glad to have known Marvin in this way.

Leslie Rapach (Tallahassee, FL)

Marvin will be deeply missed by the collegiate and Tallahassee bowling communities. He was a friend to everyone he knew. He displayed a quiet leadership as coach and director of the Florida State bowling program. Not only did he guide FSU to 2nd place nationally in both men's and women's division, he had a very positive impact on many of the FSU bowlers as they transitioned into becoming young men and women. He always had the time and patience to listen to their problems and help them sort out their direction. I'm forever thankful for all of your efforts to bring the collegiate and local bowling community together, for your pioneering efforts to support sport bowling, but most importantly for being my friend.

Bruce Meyers (Tallahassee, FL)

Marvin was my boss, coach, and most importantly, my friend. He was ALWAYS cheery and peppy every morning when I walked in to work. It's going to be hard for a while continuing without him, but I know he's in a better place, smiling down on all of us.

Ricky Bailey (Tallahassee, FL)

Marvin was a friend to everyone he knew. His quiet leadership worked miracles on the personal lives of the FSU Bowling Team members. Not only was he a great bowling coach that took FSU to 2nd place nationally in both men's and women's division; but he also helped guide many of the FSU bowlers as they transitioned to becoming young men and women and aided so many think through their problems when they were troubled. I'm forever thankful for what you have done for FSU Bowling and the Tallahassee bowling community. Thank you, also, for your pioneering efforts to develop sport bowling in Tallahassee and bringing the college and local bowling community together. I'm forever grateful for having been your friend.

Bruce Meyers (Tallahassee, FL)

Marvin has touched so many lives. During his time at FSU, he was not only respected as a teacher, a coach, and a mentor, but as a friend. He loved the students as if they were his own children. He loved bowling and took much pride in leading them to second place at Collegiate Nationals. Marvin will be very missed but his memory will remain at Crenshaw Lanes.

Brandy Padilla (Winter Haven, FL)

Marvin will be missed by all. I have known him since he was the mechanic at Crenshaw Lanes. He always had a kind word and encouragement for everyone around him. It is with a heavy heart I say Goodbye old friend.

Garry Leonard (Tallahassee, FL)

Marvin was a wonderful person & a great leader by example. He will be impossible to replace in the FSU bowling community. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Alan Thompson (Tallahassee, FL)

I was greatly saddened by Marvin's passing. He will be missed by everyone who knew and cared for him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Michael Fine
Head Bowling Coach
The University of Kansas

Michael Fine (Lawrence, KS)