

Friends, family remember coach Al McGuire

More than 1,500 attend a funeral for the deceased coach and commentator

By Arnie Stapleton
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Al McGuire packed the house one last time Monday night.

A standing room-only crowd of more than 1,500 mourners attended a funeral Mass for the former coach and commentator whose powerful personality and wit transcended the basketball court and the broadcast booth.

McGuire died Friday at 72 after a long illness.

"Al McGuire was a basketball coach, and for 20 years he coached basketball like Beethoven wrote music, like Shakespeare wrote poetry and like Rembrandt painted pictures," said U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl, his close friend.

McGuire's son, Al Jr., recalled a time when his father was starting to build Marquette into a powerhouse, the crowds at the old Milwaukee Arena were getting bigger and bigger, "and he turned to me and said, 'We're doing good.'"

His son then scanned the overflow crowd at Gesu Church, including 30 of his father's former players standing on the altar behind him.

"How proud he would be that

the house was another SRO (standing room only)," he said. "We've done good together, gang. We've done really good."

The 90-minute Mass followed a six-hour visitation in which thousands of mourners paid their last respects to McGuire, the charismatic New Yorker who coached Marquette to a national championship and later brought his street-wise lingo to TV.

"In Al McGuire's passing we have lost a truly remarkable man, colorful, unique, one of a kind," the Rev. Robert Wild, president of Marquette University, said in his homily.

"His style, even his vocabulary, his verbal imagery, were uniquely his own and we listened to what was sometimes a stream of consciousness, yet we understood what he meant and quite frankly across the country we have borrowed shamelessly a variety of 'McGuireisms': the 'Hail Mary play,' a 'cupcake' opponent, going 'uptown,' or 'Park Ave.," the list goes on and on," Wild said.

"Al lived life with zest, he did things his way and we admire him for it."

The Rev. George Winzenburg, who presided over the Mass, said McGuire lived with gusto and died with dignity.

"We remember a man who taught us how to live and how to

die," he said.

McGuire died of a blood disorder, said his brother, Dick, a fellow Hall of Famer.

Pallbearers included Utah coach Rick Majerus and former players Ed Janka, Jack Burke, Ulice Payne, George Thompson, Earl Tatum and Ric Cobb.

McGuire was one of college basketball's most successful coaches for 20 years, leading Marquette to 11 postseason appearances, capped with an NCAA title in 1977, shortly after announcing that season would be his last.

When the Warriors beat North Carolina to win the championship in Atlanta, McGuire, who sent 26 players to the NBA, did not join the celebration. He sat on the bench by himself, his face buried in his hands, crying.

Later that year, he began a broadcast career that lasted for 23 years. He started at NBC and in 1992 moved to CBS, where he worked until he retired last March, saying he had a form of anemia.

McGuire played at St. John's before a brief NBA career that ended in the 1954-55 season. He then made his mark on the sport as a coach and broadcaster, earning him election to the Hall of Fame in 1992.

His head coaching career started at Belmont Abbey, a small school

in North Carolina, in 1957, and he moved to Marquette in 1964. He turned the Warriors into a national power by recruiting the neighborhoods where his colleagues didn't dare venture.

He joined NBC in 1977, and his constant banter with analyst Billy Packer became a staple for college basketball fans. "McGuireisms" such as "tap city," "white-knuckler" and "aircraft carrier" became part of the sport's vocabulary.

One of his favorite phrases was "seashells and balloons," and all who knew him had their own interpretations.

"It just meant good times," Majerus said. "It is looking at life with a positive approach through the worst of situations."

They were words that McGuire lived by until his death.

Majerus, who is on sabbatical to care for his ill mother in Milwaukee, said he sensed a special spirit when he visited his mentor for the final time last week.

McGuire had removed the intravenous lines supplying drugs and blood transfusions, Majerus said.

"He was just so happy to be free and he was not hindered by those things," Majerus said. "It was as if he was unfettered — spiritually as well as physically."

Amid the dozens of bouquets that adorned the cathedral Mon-

day night was a single blue and yellow helium balloon anchored by a plastic bag filled with seashells.

"Thanks, Al," read the attached card. "It's been a hell of a ride."

Sports brief

UO golf fifth after round one

The Oregon men's golf team opened up its spring season Monday with a tied-for-fifth-place showing after the first round of the Ping-Arizona Intercollegiate.

The Ducks, who shot a 6-over par 290 to tie with No. 4 South Carolina, were led by junior Aaron Byers, who shot an even-par 71 to finish tied for 13th among individuals.

Oregon was also paced by sophomores Chris Carnahan and John Ellis and junior Brandon Harnden, who all finished with a 2-over 73.

The Ducks are 14 strokes behind No. 16 Southern California, who is leading the pack after an 8-under par round one. Oregon is only four strokes back from Pacific-10 Conference rivals Arizona State and California, who are tied for fourth.

The tournament wraps up with final round action today in Tucson, Ariz.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 30). Others marvel at your prowess this year. Don't hold back; strut your stuff. You didn't get this good by accident; you worked at it! A friend provides the clue that solves the riddle in January. Be confident in February and get the raise you've earned. New responsibilities require a new role in April. You're a natural! Count your blessings and your winnings in May and share with your loved ones through June. Go back to the drawing board in July to perfect your routine. Make corrections in August and build a strong foundation. Hire an errand-runner in October and take some time off. Be respectful in November, but not intimidated. Encourage a friend's transformation in December.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — New developments may confuse you, but not for long. If you and your friends keep talking, you'll all understand soon. The lesson is partly technical and partly spiritual. You can find a way to do whatever's necessary, with honor.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 5 — You're being asked to work to tight standards. Trouble is somebody else came up with the rules. Stifle your opinion. By using your experience, or calling somebody who has experience, you can meet and exceed all expectations.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is a 9 — You and your buddies have plans already made. Give this race everything you've got, and you could beat your old record. Go for the gold! Everybody's rooting for you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 6 — You might want to try for more pay for the job you're doing. If you're serious about this, find what you want, know how much it costs, and where to get it. Put the paperwork under your boss's nose, and odds are good he or she will sign it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Meet with a person who can help you achieve a long-term goal. This has to do with vacation or travel. Today if you get together with the right person, you can make it happen. Why not?

What else are you doing with the rest of your life?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 6 — You've put up with quite a lot lately, just to get a paycheck. Although it's hard to get a raise in your allowance now, you might be able to wrangle some time off. Tomorrow would be good. Finish something your boss doesn't want to do and then ask.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 10 — Getting your regular work done may be hard. You're too busy planning your next big project. You're looking great, and everybody around you is happier for knowing you. Luckily, nobody will notice if you don't get your regular job done, anyway.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — You may feel like you're sitting on hot coals. Don't lash out at the person who's causing you this consternation. Thank them, instead, for motivating you. That will really take them by surprise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 9 — Do you go for the passionate or the intellectual type? Right now, a passionate intellectual has got your attention. You have somebody enthralled, too, not only with what you know, but also with what you're doing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 6 — Are you changing things around at your house? Don't stop, even if this project is becoming more expensive than you thought it would be. You can scrimp on something else, later. Do it right, so you won't have to go through this again.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 9 — You'll need to move quickly. The competition's putting on pressure, but it's nothing you can't handle. They don't know about your secret weapon. You don't know what it is, either. You'd better get busy and discover it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Are you spending money like it's water? If you're paying bills, that's OK. After, if you have money left, take your sweetheart out to the finest place in town. If you don't have any money left, your place will do fine. Your cooking is excellent.

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