

farber, Louis

Tucson Citizen

OBITUARY

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Citizen Staff Report

Ex-Pueblo grid coach, college star Farber dies

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Louis Farber, a college football star at Brown University and a longtime football coach at Tucson's Pueblo High School, died Monday at a Green Valley nursing home.

He was 94.

He was born March 7, 1907, in Newburgh, N.Y., and grew up in Pawtucket, R.I.

Mr. Farber was the last remaining member of the famed 1926 "Iron Men" team at Brown. The team, which went 10-0 and outscored its opponents 223-36, consisted of 11 players that played both offense and defense for the school.

A sophomore guard on the 1926 Brown team, Farber was known by the nickname "Tarzan."

He was voted into the university's Hall of Fame in 1972.

After graduating from Brown, Farber worked at his father's sheet metal business until 1934, when he became an assistant football coach at East Providence High, in Providence, R.I. In 1936, he became a math and English teacher at East Providence High and was elevated to head football coach.

In 1949, he coached East Providence to the Rhode Island state high school football championship. He was elected to the high school's Hall of Fame in 1985.

In 1950, he and his family moved to Tucson, where he began teaching at Tucson High. When Pueblo High School opened in 1956, Farber became the head football coach at the school.

He guided the Warriors to state championships in 1958 and 1961. His 1967 team placed second in the state. He retired in 1972.

In 1971, Mr. Farber was inducted into the Arizona Football Hall of Fame.

"Lou was unique in many ways, both as a football coach and as a person," said Saturnino "Curly" Santa Cruz, who played for Farber at Pueblo and later became one of his assistant coaches and the head coach at Pueblo himself from 1980-94.

"He was an offensive-minded coach who was ahead of his time," said Santa Cruz of Farber. "He was using the run-and-shoot way back in 1968.

"He was a coach who took great interest in his players," he continued. "He helped me get a football scholarship at California Western University."

Mr. Farber was preceded in death by his wife, Ida, who passed away in 1991; and a son, Bradley, who died in 1986.

He is survived by a son, Glenn, San Diego; a brother, Melville, Green Valley; and seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

There will be no funeral.

Donations can be made to the TUSD Educational Enrichment Fund in the name of Louis Farber/Pueblo High School Football Fund at 3809 E. Third St., Tucson, Ariz. 85716.