



## A father is still teaching, coaching and leading, happy Father's Day Al

By Terri Lang

He has been retired for 17 years, but Al Dosch has not given up his duties of teaching, coaching and leading. In 2001, Mr. Dosch retired after 47 years, mostly in the Strasburg School system.

Al, the son of the late Rochus and Teckla Dosch, grew up on a farm northeast of Strasburg with four brothers and six sisters.

"With a large family like that, we all had to learn how to share," Al said. "It was something our parents taught us."

From his parents, Al said he also learned to be conservative.

"Being there were 11 mouths to feed, and it was during some of the Depression years, resources were limited," he said.

Al said his mom was very outgoing and she was also the primary discipliner in their family unit.

His dad was real quiet and very reserved.

"But he was a good role model. He was honest, respectful and caring," Al said.

His parents, he said, were very generous and often invited people into their home.

Those qualities are some that Al, as a father and grandfather, has tried to instill in his family.

"I have really tried to teach the importance of honesty and respect, and to learn how to share with others, whether it was in my teaching and coaching years, or as a father to my children," he added.

Dosch's teaching career began in the fall of 1951 in a small rural school in Odessa Township (near Hague). The school consisted of 13 students in grades 1-8.

"It was a little country school with no running water and no electricity," Al said.

He remembers he had Leroy Fischer as a 4th grade teacher, and then later in Strasburg, taught Leroy's daughter and then his granddaughter.

Dosch started his high school teaching and coaching career at Napoleon in the fall of 1955, but he served the district just one year.

In the summer of 1956, Dosch was drafted into the U.S. Army. He was stationed at Madigan Army Hospital in Tacoma, Washington. He was released from his military service to fill a vacancy in Social Science and coaching at Strasburg High School in January 1958.

Dosch taught and coached football at Strasburg High School (SHS) from 1958-61, and the same positions at St. Benedict's High School, Strasburg, from 1962-66. In 1966, St. Ben's combined with St. Anthony's High School of Linton to form Emmons Central High School at Strasburg. Dosch was employed there as a teacher and coach for the duration of the school (1966-85).

Emmons Central closed its doors in May 1985, and in the fall of 1985, Dosch was a teacher and guidance counselor at SHS for his last 16 years, before deciding to retire. He was also the head coach for the Clipper Football team from 1985-91.

At St. Ben's and Emmons Central, Dosch was best known as the head coach for



At Crystal Springs in 2012, the Dosch family are, left to right, Tom Dosch (holding son, Matthew) and his wife, Tina with their daughter, Lauren; Linda David and her husband Hugh, with their three children, Wyatt, Cody and Karen; Sheila and Marlon Ohlhauser with their children, Brent Ohlhauser (holding son Colten) and his wife, Sarah, and Austin; Judy and Al Dosch; Cheri and Steve Schmidt; Patti Erlandson and her husband Eric (holding his son, David), and their daughter, Stephanie, and sons, Stephen, Gregory and Daniel; and Kathy Dosch. Family members not present in this photo are, Cheri and Steve Schmidt's children Jared, Justin, Jaycie (Schmidt) Walker and her husband, Logan; Sheila and Marlon Ohlhauser's son Waylon and his wife Heidi and their son, Westen, and Brent and Sarah Ohlhauser's son, Oliver; Linda and Hugh David's daughter-in-law, Natalie, and their grandson, Michael; and Patti and Eric Erlandson's daughter, Kayley.



Judy Dosch is very proud of her husband, Al. During his teaching and coaching career in Strasburg, Al received many honors including the N.D. Coaches Hall of Fame and Valley City State University (VCSU) Hall of Fame.

several outstanding football teams. His 1973 team was selected as the North Dakota High School Football Team of the Year.

His honors include his selection to the N.D. Coaches Hall of Fame and the Valley City State University (VCSU) Hall of Fame, and receiving the UND Award of Merit and the VCSU Award of Merit and many other coach and athletic director of the year awards.

Dosch has been a great leader in the community – serving on the Strasburg Park Board (instrumental in the construction of the Strasburg Sports Complex), Emmons County Sports Alumni Association, Knights of Columbus, Strasburg Lions Club, Strasburg Area Community Foundation (donating over \$17,000 for scholarships and thousands of dollars for needy causes throughout Emmons County), Strasburg Volunteer Fire Department, a member of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church of Strasburg (CCD Instructor, Finance Committee, church council, communion minister and usher).

Al's brother-in-law, Gary Keller, and a community leader himself, said Al has been an important part of the community.

"He has been very involved in the education part in addition to many organizations in the community," Gary said. "Sports is where he really excelled."

He has also been a wonderful father according to his wife, Judy.

"He was a good dad and still is," Judy said. "He taught them how to be good people. He is just a good guy!"



Al Dosch graduated from Strasburg High School in 1950.

She knows that their children feel the same.

"All our kids thank him, especially on Father's Day," she added.

Al and Judy raised seven children – Cheri, Sheila, Karen, Linda, Kathy, Patti and Tom. Their daughter, Karen, died as the result of injuries she sustained in a car accident near Minot in 1981. The Doschs also have 17 grandchildren (12 boys and 5 girls), four great-grandchildren (all boys), and have another great-grandchild on the way.

In his retirement, Al has enjoyed going to high school and college sporting events, golfing, traveling (going to Arizona for their winters), visits to the farm and watching golf and football on TV.

As he celebrates Father's Day with his family, he offers some advice to all the fathers and grandfathers out there.

"Show interest in what your children and grandchildren are doing. Support them in their work and in their goals. Encourage them



Six of Al and Judy's children graduated from Emmons Central High School (ECHS), Strasburg. With their parents and the years they graduated are, left to right, Patti, (a member of the school's final graduating class 1985), Linda (1980), Kathy (1982), Tom (1987, attended ECHS until the school closed in 1985), Sheila (1979) and Cheri (1978). Their daughter, Karen, who died in a car accident in 1981, graduated in 1980. This photo was taken in 2015.



On Aug. 13, 1959, Al Dosch married Judy Keller, daughter of the late Rudy and Edythe Keller, at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Strasburg.



Al and Judy Dosch raised seven children (Tom was not yet born in this photo taken in 1968). In the front are, left to right, Karen (who died in a car accident in 1981), Linda and Kathy, back row, Al, Judy holding Patti, Cheri and Sheila.

giving and forgiving, joyful, positive, hard-working, faith-filled, competitive, dedicated, an achiever, a finisher, wise and an encourager.

She said her dad was ultra-busy, but somehow managed to give them time and attention.

"He has a playful nature and he loved to play little practical jokes," Cheri said.

She remembers impatiently watching for her dad to come home from school and sports practice in the little mobile home they lived in.

"And then it was mealtime, mealtime prayers and eating around the small kitchen table," she said.

Cheri said their dad was dedicated to family, church, community, his farm and his career as a teacher and coach.

She said it was fun to go to games and cheer their dad's teams, and that they were all very proud of him.

"As a young child, I took the success of dad's teams for granted. In my little mind, we 'always' won!" Cheri said.

She learned from her dad the importance of keeping your commitments, doing your best, and dealing with people honestly and compassionately, and with a sense of humor.

"I am indeed blessed, and Father's Day is a great time



Subscribe to the  
**Emmons County Record**  
by credit card online  
[www.ecrecord.com](http://www.ecrecord.com)  
or by phone, or  
mail your check.

**EMMONS COUNTY RECORD** • P.O. Box 38 • Linton, ND 58552 • Call (701) 254-4537

**Send subscription to...**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

SUBSCRIPTIONS (Must be paid in advance)	
Emmons, Burleigh, Kidder, Logan, McIntosh, Morton, McPherson & Campbell counties, One Year .....	\$45.00
Emmons, Burleigh, Kidder, Logan, McIntosh, Morton, McPherson & Campbell counties, Six Months .....	\$24.00
Rest of North Dakota, One Year .....	\$50.00
Rest of North Dakota, Six Months .....	\$26.00
Outside of North Dakota, One Year .....	\$55.00
Outside of North Dakota, Six Months .....	\$30.00
Student Subscriptions, Nine Months .....	\$30.00
Rates to Foreign Countries .....	Call
Online Subscriptions, One Year .....	\$45.00
Combo Online and Print Subscription, One Year .....	\$65.00

to pause, and with gratitude, thank God for the very special earthly dad that I have been given," she said. "He and mom made a happy home for us."

Al and Judy's only son, Tom, said his dad is humble, hardworking and impactful, and as a grandfather, he is generous, caring and thoughtful.

"And he is still coaching when needed!" Tom said.

Going on football scouting trips, staying in the gym after basketball games, helping clean up and call scores in to the newspapers, radio and TV stations are all special memories Tom has with his dad.

"It was great having the gym all to myself to shoot baskets once the chores were completed," he said. "I would get a Mr. Goodbar and Jolly Rancher candies for helping clean up!"

Tom said his dad has left a legacy of kindness and generosity.

"He is a person that can be counted on to show up and to be your best as a person, father, husband and worker every day," Tom said. "I call this being an 'everyday guy,' something I talk about on a regular basis to my teams and players I coach."

Daughter Linda said their dad is truly the "gold standard" for what a father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather should be.

"Dad is the most honest man you will ever meet but also has a fun sense of humor and doesn't take himself too seriously," Linda said.

She said her father is kind, fair, strong and gentle.

"A generally quiet man, and he leads by example," she added. "He is absolutely selfless, loving and giving, and very generous."

She said Al loves watching his grandkids do what they love to do – sports, music, whatever and simply wants to share life with the people whom he loves.

"He gives people room to be themselves and cherishes each person just the way they are," Linda said.

She said their dad taught them all to value family, friends and neighbors, and to treat all people with respect.

"Dad is one who teaches by his example," Linda said "To live life with integrity. Be humble. Help others when you can. Give people the benefit of the doubt. Be frugal and live simply. Don't take life too seriously. And, sometimes you have to roll with the punches. These reflect the way that he lives his life."

"And ... put your trust in God," Linda said.

Their youngest daughter, Patti, said Al is a great dad, father-in-law and grandpa to her six children.

"My dad was always kind, caring, and full of concern for others," Patti said. "He worked hard and was very dedicated to his family as well as to his students and athletes."

She said that although he chose teaching and coaching as a profession, it really was more of a calling than it was a job/occupation.

"He quietly set a good example for others to follow," she added.

Their mom and dad live a very modest and humble lifestyle and seem happy with the simple things in life.

"They instilled in us kids what was important to them by how they set priorities –

faith, family, friends ... in that order," Patti said. "I hope and pray my own kids can say the same for me someday."

She said her dad is a very strong Christian and anyone who knows anything about him, knows that Jesus Christ truly is at the very forefront of how he lives his life.

"Dad taught us to give back to the church and community," she said.

Daughter Kathy said their dad has a strong but quiet faith.

"He lives his faith out, doesn't talk much about it with words, but speaks volumes with his actions," Kathy said.

She said he taught her to respect others and that all people have dignity and no one is better than anyone else.

"He is so accepting of all people and that everyone is a child of God and they deserve respect, even when they make less than the best choices," she added.

Kathy said her father gave the commencement address at her high school graduation.

"It was a tough year for our family, as my sister, Karen, had died in a car accident the previous fall," Kathy said. "I was so honored that he had agreed to give the address. It is a special memory and I remember what it was about. He compared life to a football game – how appropriate!"

Many, many people know Al Dosch as a great coach and teacher - and that he was.

"I think that as great as a coach and teacher he was, he is even a better father," she said.

Kathy said her dad is very loving and tender, always calm, steady and consistent.

"He draws the best out of people, encouraging everyone to become a better person," Kathy said.

She add that he is also very witty and has a great sense of humor.

"Although, it is a dry sense of humor. And he has a wry little smile!" she added.

Daughter Sheila was fortunate that her children, and now grandchildren also, are close to home and get to spend a lot of time together with their family.

"Sunday was 'Sunday soup day' (dad made the soup and still does) as a family, and as our boys grew up, we spent most Sundays at my parents being together, enjoying each others company, and spending the day together," Sheila said. "We continue to carry on the tradition of soup, and spending the day together with our grandkids."

During the year 2000-2001 high school football season, the Ohlhauser family spent every weekend with their parents, traveling to football games.

"My two oldest sons, Waylon and Brent, were both starters on the Linton Lions team," she said. "Never a happier or prouder moment for their grandpa then watching his two oldest grandsons end the year with a state football title in the game he loved."

She said her dad has a tremendous faith in God.

"Dad is strong, kind, caring, compassionate, encouraging, reliable, supportive, understanding, patient, generous as a father and now as a grandfather and great grandpa," Sheila said. "We are blessed to have him in our lives and I am super proud to be his daughter."



The Dosch guys, Al, son Tom and grandson Matthew all love sports and cheer on their favorite team, Northern State University Wolves!



Al loves that he has children, grandchildren, and now also great-grandchildren, close to home. Great-grandsons are, left to right, Oliver (3), Colten (7) and Westen (3 1/2). Oliver and Colten are Brent and Sarah Ohlhauser's sons, and Westen is Waylon and Heidi Ohlhauser's son. They are the grandchildren of Marlon and Sheila (Dosch) Ohlhauser.



Football is in their blood. Al Dosch's grandsons, are, in front, left to right, Wolves' fans, Matthew Dosch and David Erlandson, and back, Daniel Erlandson and Stephen Erlandson. Grandpa Al Dosch, at the time he retired from coaching, had the winningest record of all time in North Dakota.



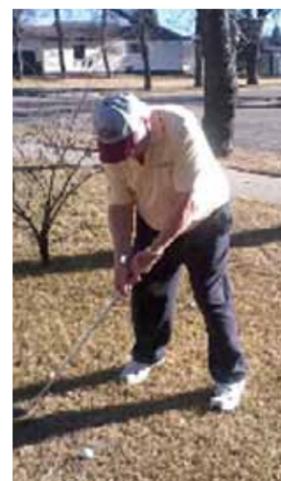
At a class reunion in 2017, three of Al Dosch's football players (all playing center position in an eight consecutive year time period), and all with the names of Pat Feist, gathered for a photo with Coach Dosch.



Al believes in teaching the importance of honesty and respect, whether it is at home, church, in the community, school or the football field – a legacy that has passed on to his son, Tom, and grandson, Matthew.



Al said that when his son, Tom, was four years old, he would be his shadow on the football field and be the water boy. And now, Tom's son, Matthew, does the same for his father, Wolves football coach at Northern State University in Aberdeen, S.D.



Al Dosch is an avid golfer and was caught golfing in January of 2012 in his front yard in Strasburg.



Al Dosch was in the U.S. Army from the summer of 1956 until January of 1958. He was stationed at Madigan Army Hospital in Tacoma, Wash.



Al cheers for the Linton Hazelton Lions when his grandsons ended their year with a state football title.