



Carl M. Taibi

August 21, 2021

Carl M. Taibi, 70, of Pueblo passed away on August 21, 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Freda Taibi; in-laws, Dan & Edith Woelfle and Betty Kroger. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Rovonda Taibi; children, Branden Williams, Sean (Sabrina) Taibi and Nicholas Taibi; grandchildren, Brenden, Tanner, Dani and Logan; siblings, Tony (Shari) Taibi, Chuck (Ann) Taibi, JoAnn (Mike) Badovinae, Joe (Tamara) Taibi and Patty (Larry) Williams; in-laws, Georgia (Jen) Richardson, Eddy (Olana) Richardson and Ronnie Samson; numerous nieces, and nephews; extended family and friends. Carl played collegiately for Colorado University and was drafted in 1972 by the Washington Redskins. No Pueblo family has made more of an impact or enjoyed extended success on the gridiron than the Taibi's. All four brothers - Carl, Tony, Chuck and Joe - were gifted all-conference and all-state athletes who went on to play college ball. Carl and Joe went on to play college ball. Carl and Joe went a step further playing professionally, Tony and Chuck Taibi were outstanding running backs - the best in Pueblo in each of their senior years. Joe the youngest brother, was a beast as a defensive end. The next generation also made its mark in the sports arena. Carl's son, Sean, was a four-year starter playing D-I basketball at the University of Northern Colorado. Tony's son, Sam, played college football at Colorado State University-Pueblo, and Chuck's son, John at the Air Force Academy. Carl's son Nick was a multi-sport athlete at East high School. The patriarch of the pack of course was Carl. "You don't get drafted (into the National Football

League) if you don't have talent. He was quick and he was big." Tony Taibi said, refuting his brother's claim. "In high school, he wasn't the big leader type, I was surprised when he went to CU how well he did. That's when I was most proud of him. He made all-conference. He was successful. That's why I went to CU." Typical of brothers, "what he was doing, you wanted to do too... especially if he was successful," Tony said. "He was an altar boy in the Catholic church, so I wanted to do that too." Big brother is the only one of the clan sitting in the Greater Pueblo Sports Association's Hall of Fame. He was inducted in 1997 alongside his high school line coach, Mike Chorak. Carl was big and tough enough to foot the foundations on which Pueblo's premier football family built its success. He got it all started as a two-way performer at Roncalli High School, where he began his career as a tight end, but soon found himself playing a multitude of positions (tight end, fullback, offensive tackle, linebacker, and defensive end). Ultimately, he anchored the offensive line and protected the flanks from his defensive end post as a senior in 1968. Taibi was recruited by a number of Division I colleges, He chose Colorado University after "one of the coaches told me I couldn't play in the Big Eight Conference" The arrival of Jerry Claiborne as the Buffs' defensive coordinator transformed Taibi into a pro prospect. "He was a tough but fair coach. He got me to where I was as a senior," he said. Taibi's senior season was his most memorable. "My God, that was an outstanding team," he said, reeling off the names of tams, Cliff Branch, Herb Orvis, Cullen Bryant, Charlie Davis, Jon Keyworth, Larry Brunson and Kenny Johnson." We were third in the nation," he said of the 1971 Buffalos, which went 10-2 with a Bluebonnet Bowl victory over Houston that capped a season highlighted by their No. 3 Associate Press national ranking behind No.1 Nebraska and No. 2 Oklahoma - the only teams to beat them. He was a 15th round draft choice of the Washington Redskins in 1972 (Southern Colorado State College wide-receiver Frank Grant was the Skins 13th round pick). "When you're in the NFL, life is surreal," Taibi said. "It's not the real life. He also spent some preseason games with the Philadelphia Eagles before winding up in the upstart World Football League, a short-lived

league that played games in 1974 and part of 1975. Taibi was a defensive tackle for the Detroit Wheel in 1974 and the Jacksonville Express in 1975 before the league folded. "I was washing up at (age) 25. The last time I played professionally was 1975," he said. "I didn't handle it very well. I had no interest in watching games for three years...I felt I should be out there. What got me out of it was when I met my wife Vonnie, Our marriage settled me down. I know everything that has happened to me was God's plan, Coach Chorak used to tell me, "it would take an act of God to get you going." It was his volunteer coaching in Pueblo's youth Bantam League that drew Taibi back into football. He also spent nine years as an assistant coach at East High School. "I try to help out the younger athletes. I like to keep up with what's going on, watching the lines. I like to see the blocking (schemes) and how defensive players come off blocks." Carl will be forever loved and deeply missed by all those he leaves behind. Eulogy, 9:45 am, followed by Mass of Resurrection, 10:00 am, Wednesday, St, Joseph Catholic Church Home. Interment to follow, Roselawn Cemetery. Viewing prior to service. Service may be viewed through Live stream on Facebook at Romero Family Funeral Home Pueblo and YouTube at Romero Family Funeral Home Pueblo.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

Pueblo, CO

Previous Events

Live Stream - Facebook Romero Family Funeral Home Pueblo

SEP 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1145 S. Aspen Road
Pueblo, CO 81006

Mass of the Resurrection

SEP 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1145 S. Aspen Road
Pueblo, CO 81006

Tribute Wall

PT

“ Just did a search of Carl who I knew through the fellowship of athletes in the early 70's. He was so generous and found a place for my husband and I to stay on Pueblo on our way to Estes park. He had a great story and I have a photo of the three of us I was so sad to see that he had passed away. Prayers for comfort for his family

patty talley - January 09, 2022 at 10:20 PM

JB

“ Oh my Gosh , I so sorry for the Family, Carl and I go way back to the PB&T days. He was one Cool Dude.

Julie Bramer - September 15, 2021 at 03:52 PM

EP

“ I am saddened to have just heard of Carl's passing. To the entire Taibi family, please know that I love you all, and I share your profound loss. Carl was, and always will be, a great person. I hope to see him again, and I know he is at peace!
Earl Poteet

Earl Poteet - September 07, 2021 at 11:46 AM

LS

“ I just found out that Carl passed! Condolences to all your family! We grew up on East 3rd and was always playing some kind of ball game. Playing football for St. Leander’s Carl came up to me and said just follow me Scott. I was a running back. Cub Scout baseball, your mom had to carry his birth certificate to prove he was young enough to play.
Darn! Rip Carl!

L. Scott Stevenson

L. Scott Stevenson - September 06, 2021 at 02:04 PM

BH

“ Our deepest condolences for your loss. My late husband Leon used to talk about how much he liked Carl. Again, I am so very sorry for your loss. The Harwood Family

Betty Harwood - September 03, 2021 at 04:53 PM

JK

“ I recently was informed of Carl’s passing. He took me under his wing the first have of my sophomore year of basketball. We sat together on the bench and enjoyed each other’s company. When an injury took me off the bench and into the starting line up Carl was one of my biggest supporters. He was a great guy.

Jim Keller - September 02, 2021 at 11:40 AM

CI

“ In this time of sorrow, the Taibi family is in our thoughts and prayers. Eternal rest grant unto Carl and let perpetual light shine on him, May he rest in peace.
The Cunico and Dilorio Families

cindycunico - September 01, 2021 at 03:36 PM

AB

“ *My sincere condolences to Carl's family. Carl was a classmate and a friend and will be missed by so many. "Death leaves a heartache no one can heal...Love leaves a memory no one can steal."*

Alice Birch

Alice Birch - September 01, 2021 at 11:59 AM

TB

“ *Sorry to hear this. My main connection to Carl was when we played flag football together so many years ago. Much respected & admired. A good man through & through.*

RIP, my friend.

Coach Tom Brockman.

Tom Brockman - September 01, 2021 at 10:51 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Carl M. Taibi.*



September 01, 2021 at 05:07 AM

CT

“ To everyone, our deepest condolences. Over the years, my memories of the summers when you all visited in our younger years still very vivid, especially when Carl stayed at our house. Ask Chucky about the story I shared with him last evening, about the first time Carl had me out on the field to do a sprint drill. :) When he got his degree, it was an inspiration to me to keep going to graduate as well when I was struggling to finish. We pray for your grief to be very short and all the happy memories take over. All our love, Calo, Becky, and kids

Calo and Becky Taibi - August 31, 2021 at 10:20 PM

TL

“ Prayers to you and the family. Carl was a great human being I enjoyed coaching with him at East high school. Lots of good memories of Carl he will be sadly missed! Rip Carl!

Thomas Lontine - August 31, 2021 at 08:52 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Romero Family Funeral Home - August 31, 2021 at 06:56 PM