



Nathan Whitt Taber

February 28, 1974 - January 10, 2023

Nathan Whitt Taber passed away at his residence in Brentwood, Tennessee on Jan. 10, 2023. Whitt was born Feb. 28, 1974 in Guntersville, Alabama to Robert Stephen and LaCena D. Taber. Whitt was a member of Warrenton Methodist Church of Guntersville.

Whitt graduated from Guntersville High School in 1992 where he played #1 on the tennis team. After graduation, he received a tennis scholarship to Snead and then two years later another tennis scholarship to UAH where he also played #1. In his two years UAH Whitt racked up over 80 wins in singles and doubles. The love of the game of tennis became a career. After graduating in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from UAH, Whitt was hired as head coach of the UAH Chargers. In 1999, as head coach he led the men's team to their first ever bid to the NCAA Team Championships, and a top 30 ITA final national ranking. During his stint at UAH, Whitt was also the tennis professional at Hampton Cove Racquet Club.

Whitt then carried that success on to the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. In 2000, as Assistant Coach with Head Coach Jeff Clark, he helped lead the Mocs Men's Tennis Team to a Southern Conference Tournament Championship.

That team also received the University's first-ever bid to the NCAA Division I Team Championships.

During his coaching years, Whitt also worked with John Shackelford as Director of Junior and Adult Summer Tennis Camps at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

Whitt's goal of coaching in the SEC was realized the next year when he was hired as Assistant Women's Tennis coach at

Ole Miss. He coached at Ole Miss for nine years, traveling to major tournaments including Wimbledon and US Open

recruiting top ranked juniors. In 2005, Whitt's and Mark Beyers' Ole Miss Rebels won the first ever SEC Western Division

Championship. Their teams earned the ITA All-Academic Team Award. Whitt coached 19 all-conference players, two All-

Americans, two conference sportsmanship award winners and 21 ITA Scholar Athletes, all before reaching the age of 30.

Whitt was quoted in an article at Ole Miss saying "I want every student athlete to leave Ole Miss a better person, not just a better tennis player."

After leaving college coaching, Whitt moved to Nashville and worked a short time for Edward Jones as a financial

advisor. He then began working in the insurance field. However, coaching was still in his blood, so he also continued

working with the youth tennis program at Maryland Farms YMCA in Brentwood, Tennessee. While in Nashville, Whitt

became committed to charitable work in the Music City Tennis Invitational supporting the Breast Cancer Coalition. Whitt

touched many lives in his short time on Earth, whether it was convincing you that U2 was far more than just a band but

cultural and political icons, teaching you how to pronate your wrist for a more powerful serve, or explaining every aspect

of how the Yankees will win the Pennant and how much he and his dad loved

them. We pray each of you hold tight to your fond memories of NWT and keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. Whitt is survived by his mother-LaCena Douglas Taber, sister-Emily Taber Barnhouse (Greg), niece-Chloe Addison Barnhouse, nephew-Stephen Cooper Barnhouse, Uncle and Aunt- Harry and Nettie Douglas, cousins- Amanda Caryl and Lesley Lang, and a host of tennis friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Stephen Taber, grandparents Robert Burns (Bob) and Polly Taber, Imogene and Oscar Douglas, and his bestest boy- JoJo.

A visitation will be held January 21 st 6:00pm-8:00pm at Guntersville Memorial Chapel. A funeral service will be held at Warrenton Methodist Church January 22 nd at 2:00pm. The family requests in lieu of flowers donations be made to the

Tennessee Breast Cancer Coalition www.tbcc.org or Warrenton Methodist Church 102 Warrenton Shores Drive, Guntersville, Al 35976

In lieu of flowers the family suggest donations be made to Warrenton Methodist Church or the Tennessee Breast Cancer Coalition www.tbcc.org 106 Mission Court Suite 602 Franklin TN, 37067 1-615-377-8777

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **21**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Guntersville Memorial Chapel
1601 Henry Street
Guntersville, AL 35976
(256) 582-7931
guntersvillememorial@gmail.com

Memorial Service

JAN **22**. 2:00 PM.

Warrenton Methodist Church

Tribute Wall

BJ

“ My condolences to the Taber family. I was a teammate of Whitt's at Snead State. I always enjoyed his competitiveness and true passion for the game of tennis. By chance we would run into one another on an indoor tennis in Nashville some 20 years later. This chance meeting allowed us to reconnect and chat about life after college. I am very thankful and consider myself lucky to have known such a great guy.

Brent Josey - January 27, 2023 at 04:50 PM

RS

“ Hank and I are so heart broken in the loss of Whitt. He always brought soft spoken words of kindness to all occasions along with his great smile. We will miss him terribly. With time we wish you comfort and peace.

Robin and Hank Sneed - January 20, 2023 at 07:02 PM



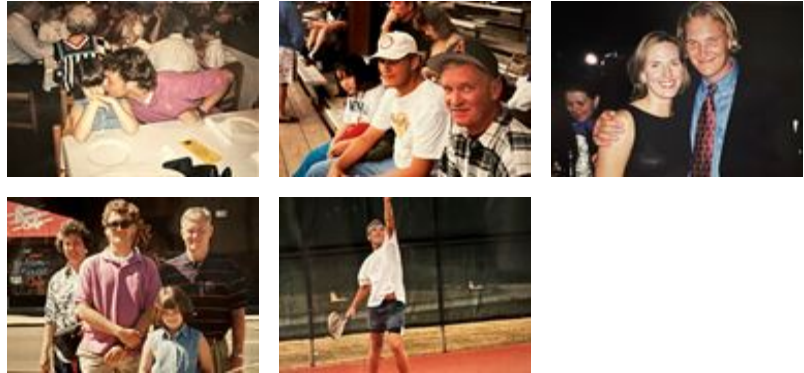
“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nathan Whitt Taber.



January 19, 2023 at 02:50 PM



“ 109 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Guntersville Memorial Chapel & Crematory - January 19, 2023 at 01:12 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Nathan Whitt Taber.



January 17, 2023 at 05:21 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Nathan Whitt Taber.



January 17, 2023 at 07:06 AM

KP

“ Whitt was a gift to our family and especially our sons, Max and Elliott, whom he coached and took to tennis tournaments over the years. He was a friend and mentor to them, and cared about them as people. We will miss him with all of our hearts.



katy parker - January 15, 2023 at 10:47 AM

KG

“ My name is Karem Harboe Graeber. I am sending my deepest condolences to all of Whitt’s family. Whitt was my Olemiss coach for 4 years in 2000. Being far from my home country was hard but Whitt made it so much easier for me to get used to a new town and a new life. He always gave me the best advice on and off the court. We were in Tuscaloosa playing a tournament my freshman year and I was about to play the third set. Coach Montgomery came to coach me and I begged him to get Whitt to coach me instead. I loved Coach Montgomery but Whitt just knew what to say on high pressure moments. He would make it fun, he knew how to help me calm down, find a good strategy and just play. I so enjoyed playing matches when Whitt was watching. He also knew how to keep the team positive. He always made CD’s for us. My CD’s had the coolest titles too. I had an abdominal muscle injury that kept coming back all 4 years so one day he gave me a CD’s (U2, Dave Matthews music) titled ‘To stop your abs from hurting’. He really spoiled us. On road trips he would stop sooo many times for snacks and potty breaks just because we asked. He was so patient with us. He always knew the best/most fun restaurants in every college town. I will never forget the fun Jeep rides around campus (I did not have a car my freshman year so there were a lot of rides to the training room). We may have not seen each other that often after college, but we stayed in touch. Those 4 years of college tennis bonded our team and he was definitely the glue. Last time we talked was in December. One of my daughters played against one of Whitt’s players so I told him that I was going to send my girls to train with him for a week this summer because they needed to learn some doubles magic :) I so enjoyed our phone calls. I am really going to miss talking to him about tennis and about life. I learned a lot from Whitt and please know that I will never forget all he did for me and everything he taught me. With much love, Karem



karem Harboe Graeber - January 14, 2023 at 11:52 PM