



# Louis Ciro Cecconi

OCT 13, 1928 - FEB 24, 2024



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# Louis Ciro Cecconi

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**L**ouis Ciro “Bimbo” Cecconi, 95, formerly of Pleasant Hills, died on February 24th, 2024 at Paramount Senior Living Care in Bethel Park. He was born October 13th, 1928 in Donora, PA, the son of the late Albert Cecconi and Paula Pearl Puglisi Cecconi.

A member of the Donora High School class of 1946, he won 11 of 12 varsity letters starring in football, basketball, baseball and track. The Dragons won three consecutive WPIAL football titles with the 1945 team ending the season ranked #1 in the state and #2 nationally. In 1945, he helped the basketball team win the WPIAL A basketball crown and went on to finish as state runner ups.

He earned a scholarship to Pitt where he became only one of three athletes in Pittsburgh history to win 9 varsity letters. He was a 4-year two-way starter in football. Against Penn State in 1949; Bimbo ran for two touchdowns, passed for another touchdown and made a record setting 3 interceptions of Owen Daughtery. Bimbo tossed a record-setting touchdown of 82 yards to fellow Donora native, Nick DeRosa. Myron Cope coined the phrase “scatback” to describe Bimbo’s elusive running style.

He was a four year starter in basketball and started a record 75 games on varsity. He also played baseball for one year. His many awards included:

- 1948-1949 Quarterback Club Award
- 1949 Collier All East First Team
- 1949 Honorable Mention All American Team
- 1949 North South Shrine Game



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- 1950 Dapper Dan Football Award
- 1950 Pitt Walk-Dr. C Hartwig Athletic Association Award
- 1900-1970 All Time Pitt team
- 1980 Western Chapter Hall of Fame
- 1983 Mid Mon Valley Hall of Fame
- 1987 National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame
- 1980-1987 Old News Boys Top Ten (Raised \$250,000.)
- 2011 Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame

After graduating from Pitt in 1950 with a B.S. in Education he was drafted by the San Francisco 49ers in the 13th round. He married his high school sweetheart Vilma Claire Semetkoski on December 28th 1950 in St. Michaels Greek Catholic Church, Donora, PA. He was drafted and served in the U.S. Army from 1951-1953, where he was supervisor of the German Youth Program. He was also a player and coach of the 172 infantry Division football team, leading them to the European Championship in 1952. Upon returning from the service, he started his career as a teacher and coach at Sharpsburg High School from 1953-1958, where he was head coach of all sports. He left to return to his alma mater Pitt as an assistant coach from 1958-1965. He was then Offensive Coordinator at Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana 1966-1968. He returned to Pitt as Offensive Coordinator from 1969-1972. His last official recruit as offensive coordinator was Aliquippa star Tony Dorsett. Ironically, Tony went on to beat Bimbo's records.

He returned to the classroom at Steel Valley High School where he was head football coach for 1 year before becoming an administrator at Steel Valley High School.

He was a member of the St. Thomas a Becket Roman Catholic Church in Jefferson Hills, serving as a Eucharists Minister. He was chairman of Church Development Fund as well as many other committees over the years, He never missed working at the Friday Fish dinners during lent or helping at the summer carnival. After retirement, he would drive his wife up to daily mass and



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afterwards she would help clean the church and he would play the piano to entertain all the ladies in the dust busters group.

He loved golfing with his three lifelong friends from Donora, Nick DeRosa, Tony Romantino, and Pete Balaban. Bim achieved two hole in ones and played until he was 93 years old. He loved sitting on his deck talking on the phone, playing cards and reading. He followed the Panthers, Steelers, Penguins and Pirates. Sundays were always about his children and grandchildren gathering for spaghetti and meatballs. He was a very loving and supportive father and grandfather. A great listener but an even better storyteller, remembering in detail his amazing life which he never got tired of telling.

Loving father of Louis Carl, Anne Achenbach, Paula Fonzi, Gina Cecconi-Hazelet. Grandfather of Abraham, Noah, Erika and Isaiah (Achenbach), Gina, Marko, Gracie Maria, Gabriela (Fonzi), Claire and Nicholas (Diulus), Haydn, Paul, Autumn (Hazelet). Great-Grandfather of Giamaria Fonzi Moscatiello, Liliana and Camila Fonzi, Marcus Copeland, Carlangelo Fonzi, Mia Bella Reft, Mariana Polick, Adelyn Diulus, Urijah, Eli and Olivia Meredith. He is survived by sister in laws, June Bowen & Shirley Cecconi and son in laws Greg Diulus and John Achenbach. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his beloved parents, brother " Bert" T Cecconi, wife of 73 years Vilma Semetkoski Cecconi, daughter Mary Grace Diulus, and son in law Mark Fonzi.

The family would like to thank the amazing staff of the Paramount Senior Living in Bethel Park, for the care and dedication afforded to our father.

In Lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Mario Lemieux Foundation at [www.mariolemieux.org/](http://www.mariolemieux.org/)

A mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, March 9th 2024 at 10 am at Triumph of the Holy Cross Parish, St. Thomas a Becket Church, 139 Gill Hall Road, Pittsburgh. Immediately following please join the family at Atria's at 10 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills.

Online condolences may be left at [www.jeffersonmemorial.com](http://www.jeffersonmemorial.com)



## Tribute Wall

**Louis Ciro Cecconi**

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EM

**Eddie Marsteller** posted:

In tribute to the Legendary Bimbo Cecconi

March 6 at 7:42 AM



**Anonymous** posted:

With Sympathy, Sheetz Operations and District Managers

March 5 at 8:51 AM

BH

**Brian Hebert** posted:

To the Cecconi family, I am so sorry for your loss. I played football at Thomas Jefferson High School with Louie, Jr. Coach Cecconi was instrumental in communicating with the coaching staff of Indiana State University which led me to receiving a scholarship to play football there. For this I will be eternally grateful. With deepest condolences, Brian Hebert

March 3 at 4:07 PM

RD

**Rick Dunmire** posted:

Bimbo was a gentleman, professional, and just a great guy. Rest in peace Bim.

March 3 at 5:39 AM

CS

**Chris Stoicovy** posted:

Dear Cecconi Family, Please accept the Stoicovy Family's deepest sympathy on the passing of one of the greatest men we ever knew! Coach was one of the greatest athletes this region ever produced. His athletic prowess was only surpassed by the man he was away from the field. He is remembered by our family (who had the pleasure to live 2 houses away) as the most humble and helpful we ever knew. He was always willing to talk with me about athletics (even showing me old reel film) and life and served as a tremendous role model for me as well as thousands of others whose lives he touched. While Coach never bragged, his basement game room served as a testimony to his athletic achievements. I will have a lasting memory of taking my son Nico to visit the basement for his first time. Coach spent hours going through some of the many treasures on display - each with a special story. That evening left a lasting impression on both of us! The world lost a special man this week... he was one of a kind... a man among men. May he rest in peace Chris Stoicovy and Family

March 2 at 3:09 PM



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DJ

**Diane, David, Jessica And Paul Jenkins** posted:

We have so many fond recollections of Uncle Bimbo. He's a ray of sunshine in our memory. From our entire family to yours, our heart felt condolences.

March 2 at 6:32 AM

SM

**Susan Mason** posted:

Dear Gina and family, I only got to know your parents well in the past 20-25 years working the Parrish fish fry together. Kevin and I were on the Thursday evening fish breeding crew with your mom and dad. We so enjoyed them. Your dad always had that charming smile and your mom was such a hard worker. I don't think that church kitchen has been as clean since. They were a great couple. We of course always talked sports with your Dad, which led to us making a visit to his trophy room one day. It was so much fun hearing him talk about all the stuff, but the thing he was the most proud of, was that you managed to purchase his trading card and gift it to him. The smile on his face was great. My niece was with us also that day and she was into bugs, so then we got to see your mom's collection. On that day it was Kevin, our daughter Danielle, my brother Scott, my niece Gabby and my nephew Alby. We really enjoyed our visit. I will treasure the memory of that day. Finally, we only heard of Gracie's passing after the fact. She was lovely inside and out. Sympathies to you all! Sue Breisinger Mason

March 2 at 5:14 AM

JN

**Joseph T Nejman Jr** posted:

Joe and I would like to offer our sincere sympathy to the Cecconi family. Joe taught with Lou at Steel Valley. Lou was such a positive and friendly person. He will be greatly missed. Carol and Joe Nejman

February 29 at 8:15 AM

GM

**Ginny Breisinger Meyer** posted:

Hi Gina, What a sweet man your father was to me through the years! I got to know him from St Thomas, the fish fry's and at Dr Brody's dental office. He always took time to inquire about my kids and my husband. I even got to take the tour of his vast collection of awards and memorabilia along with Mark Brody. He was so proud of you and your family. He kept me posted on all your happenings. An amazing athlete and a great human! May he Rest In Peace 🙏 Sadly I am out of town and won't be able to offer my condolences in person. ❤️

February 27 at 3:29 PM



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RM

**Richard Manso** posted:

Sad to hear about Coach's passing, he stepped into a difficult situation when our Steel Valley High School head coach resigned close to the opening of the 1973 season. RIP Coach and condolences to his family and friends.

February 26 at 9:15 AM

SR

**Skip And Linda Romantino** posted:

We will truly miss Bimbo. He was one of a kind and great, great friend to our Dad. Thank you for sharing him with us. With deepest sympathy,

February 25 at 12:54 PM

GW

**George H. Wilson** posted:

Bimbo invited my daughter Megan, Sam Clancy, my wife and myself to visit his home in Pleasant Hills and he shared many keepsakes and treasures from his long career in athletics and coaching. He was a wonderful story teller, but more than that he was a man of faith, a true role model, well respected by many, and he influenced countless lives! May he rest in eternal peace.

February 25 at 11:57 AM

JB

**Jack Bolkovac** posted:

I was 11 when I first attended a Pitt game and saw Lou play. Our brother, Nick was a team mate of his for several years. I got to meet many of those guys and still remember watching them. Lou, Carl Dipasqua, Jimmy Joe, Bobby Lee, McPeak, Skladany, Plotz, Boldin, Barkouski, Radnor and more. After the War, Pitt was struggling after the administration decided to deemphasize while many opponents did not. But Bimbo and the boys never backed down. Great memories and I got to see so many great players play at the stadium including Bimbo, always in the fight. I am sure he truly, like my brother, Nick, was 100% blue and gold for his 95 years. Thanks, Bimbo for so many great memories. Jack Bolkovac.

February 25 at 7:32 AM



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**Keith Hall** posted:

Sorry For Your Lost Prayers For You Your Family AN Friends GOD BLESS 🙏😊❤️ He was A Great Man I use to talk to Him at the South Park Golf Course When Use to Come out He will be miss to at Sports Events an Banquets HAIL TO PITT

February 24 at 2:37 PM



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Louis by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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