



## Albert Thomas "Al" Quance

June 6, 2026

July 24, 1939 – June 6, 2026

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Albert Thomas Quance, affectionately known as Al, Coach Quance, or Big Al Q, on June 6, 2026, at the age of 86.

Al was predeceased earlier this year by Barbara "Barb" Quance, his beloved wife and partner of 64 years. Together they built a loving family and shared a lifetime of memories.

Al leaves behind his children, Holly, Brett (Michelle), and Amy; grandchildren Aliyah, Lauryn, Stephanie, Ethan, and Tennyson; and great-granddaughter Lenny, all of whom brought him immense pride and joy.

A gifted athlete, respected educator, and legendary coach, Al dedicated his career to physical education and the development of young people. He worked for the Toronto Board of Education from 1963 to 1996 and was appointed Coordinator of Physical and Health Education in 1979. During his time at Oakwood Collegiate Institute from 1969 to 1979, he built a basketball dynasty that left a lasting impact on students and athletes.

After retiring from the Board of Education, Al continued his passion for

basketball with the Toronto Raptors from 1996 to 2002. In recognition of his contributions to the sport, he was inducted into the Ontario Basketball Hall of Fame for his impact on basketball in Canada.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Al will be remembered for his larger-than-life personality, infectious enthusiasm, and ability to connect with people from all walks of life. Whether organizing golf tournaments, lawn bowling events, or bringing people together through sport, he remained active, engaged, and committed to his community until the end.

Most of all, Al was a loving and supportive husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Through his mentorship, friendship, generosity, and encouragement, he touched countless lives. His legacy lives on in the family he cherished, the athletes he inspired, and the many people he influenced.

He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Though they will be deeply missed, their loved ones take comfort in knowing that Al and Barb are together again.

# Tribute Wall

PH

“ *My deepest condolences to the Quance family. Al certainly had a great impact on many lives.* ”

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**Phil Holgate** - June 14 at 05:58 PM

SS

“ My most heartfelt condolences to the Quance family and loved ones.

*Al has been a constant and highly respected influence in my life for over 40 years. Like so many others, his large steadfast presence gave me confidence to coach, provided guidance and years of priceless mentorship and friendship.*

*The memories are overwhelming and are full of so many proud and exciting moments. A fond one is when I was honored with an invite to help coach the Converse HS All Star basketball team (80s & 90s) with Al. Under his wing, my desire to be a better coach was ignited. I admired his commitment and loyalty to build on life skills in our youth.*

*With his encouragement I also achieved my coaching certification. It is an achievement that I'm very proud of. I owe it to him.*

*I cherish the memory of coaching together at Birchmount Collegiate. We succeeded in winning several championships in both the boys and girls programs. It was a great personal learning experience. Al was always turning these exciting tournaments into teaching opportunities.*

*Big Al was a man of great character, and it is evident in his beautiful family. Al had trusted me to coach Brett at Cabbagetown and George Brown summer league. Even at that young age, he had his father's traits. He always spoke proudly about his family.*

*We spoke often, during these many months, while he dealt with many health issues. True to form, he fought as hard as he could. In a recent conversation I expressed that a book should be written about his amazing achievements and career. Just like everyone else, I feel that Al Quance is and will always be Toronto Basketball. He seemed to mull that idea over. I hope that someone runs with this idea. It would be a great read!*

*Every call was signed off with, "Pray for me Sammy". I always have and will continue to keep him, Barb and his family in my prayers. Thank you Big Al. You will never be forgotten. Rest now. Barb is by your side again.*

*Sam Scattarelli*

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**Sam Scattarelli** - June 12 at 11:19 AM

GB

“ *Leaders stand out and need no introduction , thier accomplishments in Al’s case are endless.*

*His contributions to to everyone he touched is mind blowing . He was an inspiration and his legacy is firmly planted in all of us !*

*May he rest in peace he has earned the right to watch over all of us ! My condolences to his children and family !*

*He is lighting up heaven god bless his soul rest in peace old friend !!*

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**George Bexis** - June 11 at 02:44 PM

BN

“ *My sincere condolences to Al’s family! I met Al when I was teaching at Bayview Glen school about 18 years ago. I coached basketball in the school under Al’s guidance and have learned a lot from him. Our paths crossed again 7 years ago when my daughter and his granddaughter became basketball teammates and Al and I co-coached the team. He has been a great mentor and we have shared some wonderful memories together. He will be dearly missed!*



**Bobbi Neville** - June 10 at 09:58 PM

KN

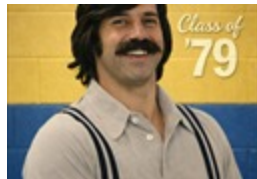
“ *My sincere condolences! I had the pleasure of getting my coaching certification under Al's guidance. He and my wife also coached our daughter and his granddaughter's rep team together. His enthusiasm and sense of humour will be missed. God bless!*

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**Kevin Neville** - June 10 at 08:01 AM

JR

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Joe Rush** - June 09 at 07:25 PM

FT

“ *My deepest condolences to the Quance Family. I met Coach Quance when I entered OCI in 1967. An Italian kid from the other side of the tracks on St.Clair Ave. At 6'4" Al was coaching the Grade 9 OCI basketball team and asked me to come play for the team. With his enthusiastic charm it didn't take much convincing. The problem was, my family was so poor, I didn't even own a pair of running shoes. Coach Quance said meet me after school. He drove me to Spadina and Bathurst and bought me my very first pair of Converse Allstar shoes. I never forgot his generosity. That's the type of person he was. Over the next 5 years he was both a mentor and coach to me and all those whose lives he touched. I spoke with him not long ago and shared some laughs about our past history. I am fortunate to have been able to do so. Cheers to an amazing individual! 🍷*

*Flavio Turchet*

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**Flavio Turchet** - June 09 at 05:51 PM

JM

*Rip coach*

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**John Mottola** - June 10 at 10:09 AM

RG

“ *My condolences to the Quance family on the passing of Al. My first encounter with him was in gym class in great 9 many years ago, and lets just say he taught me a lesson. He was an amazing man, and I remember coaching with him in the Saturday morning minor Basketball camps we had at OCI for the feeder schools. I tried to golf as often as possible in the Leon Bynoe Golf tourney he hosted. I am very fortunate to have know Big Al. RIP*

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**Richard Gelbard** - June 09 at 01:28 PM

PB

*Rest in Peace Coach. Was my rugby coach and taught me the mental toughness and sports discipline, Thanks Coach you will always be remembered as my Oakwood Rugby Coach-From Patrick 'The Boz' Bozzo.*

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**Patrick Bozzo** - June 11 at 07:23 AM