

# Alvin 'Boomer' Jones Sr. dies of cancer

Veronica Garcia | Posted: Monday, March 29, 2004 11:00 pm

SEGUIN — To know Alvin “Boomer” Jones was to love him, says longtime friend Paul Snyder, who worked with Jones scouting for the Atlanta Braves.

Jones, born Aug. 14, 1954, died Saturday, March 27, from colon cancer that spread throughout his body.

During the early years of Jones’ work with the Braves he spent much time with Snyder. At the time Jones reported to Snyder in Wythville, Va.

“You live and eat and sleep with them for two and a half months out of the year,” said Snyder in a telephone interview from his post as special assistant to the general manager at the Braves’ Florida training camp. “Boomer was one of God’s good people.”

Snyder said he remained in contact with Jones over the years and knew of his recent illness.

“I understood that it was going to end soon and not in a good way,” said Snyder. “But I guess God wanted him up there and he’s with him now.”

Snyder said that a collection of Braves memorabilia had been assembled to help raise funds for Jones’ treatment.

“He had talent and outstanding people skills,” said Snyder. “I’ve been in this game for 47 years and there’s a lot of people you want to leave but Boomer never left us; he always stayed in contact with us. Of course you never like to say goodbye.”

Steve Koehler of The Koehler Company said his brother Greg knew Jones well through baseball.

“He and my brother played a lot of baseball together,” he said. “He did a lot for the young baseball players in Seguin and gave them lots of tips on the game.”

David Welsch of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority said he was surprised to hear about Jones’ death.

“I know he was highly respected by everyone,” he said. “This is very sad.”

Annette Jones, Boomer’s wife of 24 years, said her husband’s battle against cancer was inspiring to herself and others.

“He showed such strength and optimism through his entire sickness,” she said. “He never complained and he was always concerned with everyone else.”

“Boomer was a friend to all,” said Annette, and he was a father figure to a lot of children in Seguin.

“He was a very special person and of course his greatest passion was baseball,” she said.

Jones coached the Structural Metals Inc. Steelers baseball team for 20 years, training young players about the game and about life.

“Working with him in that way was a pleasure,” said Phil Seidenberger, executive vice president and general manager at SMI. “Obviously we’re very sad and this is a tough thing for his family.”

Seidenberger said Jones was more than a coach to the children on the company’s team.

“He’s done a wonderful job with the kids,” he said. “Not only did he help make them better players but he also helped them to be better people. That’s the type of person he was. He was just a wonderful person to be around. He was a super guy. I mean, if you didn’t like Boomer than you don’t like anyone.”

Seidenberger said Boomer’s death is a great loss for Seguin and for the children who won’t have the opportunity to know him.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 3 at Faith Lutheran Church. A special celebration of life service is also planned for Saturday evening at the fairgrounds baseball park.