

IN MEMORY OF
**JAMES P.
KOEHLER**

Obituary for James Koehler



James Phillip Koehler

The beloved son of Monique and Peter, James Phillip Koehler, passed away suddenly in Louisville, Kentucky during a visit to his own young son. He was 32 years old.

A professional baseball player, coach and sports management professional, James' all-too-short life might be described by records and statistics as is so common in the world of sports:

He attended Rutgers University, graduating summa cum laude, while majoring in economics. Among his many scholarships and academic awards, he was the university's Rhodes Scholar nominee, recipient of the Rutgers University Alumni Award, Economics Department Award, Honors College Award, Schering-Plough Scholarship and a member of the Honors College of Arts and Sciences, Phi Beta Kappa and other scholarly societies. He also attended the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville.

James was also a four year member of the Rutgers baseball team, earning the Rutgers Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award in three consecutive years. After graduation, he postponed entry into the business world to launch a successful professional baseball career that spanned several seasons before injury forced his retirement.

After serving in management roles in the healthcare industry, James returned to his true passion, coaching and instructing baseball at the youth, high school, college and professional levels in Louisville, Houston, Texas and New Jersey. Most recently, he served as head coach of the Monmouth Monarchs in the Atlantic Baseball Confederation Collegiate League (ABCCL), guiding the 2015 team to

the League championship. He also founded Hitting Star Baseball Academy and was Director of Baseball Recruitment for Key Player Management, a professional sports management agency.

But cold facts, stats and simple calculated measures of achievement do not come close to defining this man, his warmth, humor, compassion and love. That is best left to people whose lives he touched. Here is just one the hundreds of personal tributes that have arrived since his tragic passing, many from his former players.

“Thursday morning we lost a great man. Not only was James my coach but he was family, he was like a brother to me. We spent almost every day together for two and a half months this summer. From the long talks about baseball and being a leader on the field to being a great man. He told me several times that (my girlfriend) Meghan McDaniel was the one and I better never let her go or he would not forgive me, and he is right. The last time I talked to him he told me how proud he was of me for everything I’ve done so far and to keep it up because one day I will accomplish great things, in baseball and in life. From here on out every time I step on that field, game, practice, or even just for fun, it’s for you James. I just ask that you be with me and watch over me from Heaven every time I’m on the field. I love you like a brother and miss you already like crazy”. #playforjames
-Hunter Courson

In addition to his son, Carter James, James leaves behind his loving parents, Monique and Peter Koehler, wife Ashley, brother Peter and wife Laura, nieces Lillian Wren and Evelyn Belle, Uncle Christopher Sfakianos and wife Ann, Aunt Tommye Sfakianos and many wonderful cousins and friends too numerous to list.

James will be reposing at the Evergreen Memorial Funeral Home 1735 Rt 35 Middletown, New Jersey on Saturday October 24, 2015 from 7-9pm and October 25, 2015 Sunday from 2-4pm and 7-9pm. Prayer service will be in the Funeral Home at 8pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to the James P. Koehler Memorial Scholarship #playforjames fund established in James’ honor at St. Anthony High School in Jersey City. James and the Koehler family have long

been supporters of the school, which will make an annual award to a worthy student-athlete. To donate, please go to www.sahsdevelopment.com or contact the St. Anthony High School Development Office, 175 Eighth Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302, Phone: 201.653.5739.

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