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Jackie Poulson

Posted on Aug 30, 2012 | [36 comments](#)

Jacquelyn Rae-Gean Poulson was born February 22, 1981 American Falls, ID and died tragically in an electrocution accident on August 30, 2012. Daughter of Larry Poulson and Deborah Poulson-Baliey. She attended Hillcrest Elementary, William Thomas Middle school, and graduated from American Falls High School. In 1999 she started her career at Idaho State University and never left. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication in 2003 and was 2 months away from her Master's degree in Health Education and teacher's certificate, while planning a wedding to the love of her life (Kyle Tarpley).

Jackie competed collegiately for 4 years at ISU Track and Field starting with running sprinting events and moving to competing in the heptathlon her sophomore year, then continued her professional career as a heptathlete for 5 years. Titles earned at ISU include 2 times Big Sky All-American Champion. Finishing 7th in the NCAA national championship, 8th the following year. She competed in the Olympic trials in 2004 and 2008, finishing in the top ten. After the trials she competed for 2 more years then retired and continued following her dreams by coaching for ISU up until her untimely death.

Her hobbies included her nieces and nephews, steelhead fishing, hunting, camping, her dog Nellie and spending as much time as she could with family and friends. She always had a smile on her face and was the life of the party. She wore her heart on her sleeve, but it was big enough for everybody. Jackie was loyal to her family, faithful to her friends, and genuine in life. She impacted so many souls, coaching everyone to the pinnacle of their abilities, in her career and life. She was not a quitter and always finished every task, job, etc to be the best. Jackie always put others before herself.

Jackie is survived by her parents Larry Poulson Chubbuck, ID and Deborah Poulson-Bailey (stepfather Fred) Chubbuck, ID, fiancée Kyle Tarpley Blackfoot, ID, sister Kristan Young (Kenny) Filer, ID, brother Brandon Poulson (Melissa) American Falls, ID step-brother Jason Bailey (Callie) Pocatello, ID, step-sister Kristen Longhurst (Kris) Pocatello, ID, Grandma Bonnie Ankrum Moore (Jene) Ashton, ID, Grandma Carol Poulson Aberdeen, ID, nephews Josh, Austin, Lucas, Daxton, Daeton, Dalton, Porter, nieces Kailyn and Mattie Jo. And several aunts, uncles, and cousins. She is preceded in death by her grandpas Larry Ankrum and Weldon Poulson.

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held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2012, at Colonial Funeral Home, 2005 S. 4th Ave. Burial will follow services at Restlawn Memorial Gardens.

Condolences may be sent to the family online at www.Colonial-FuneralHome.com.

Donation can be made in her honor at Advantage Credit Union.

Funeral Services for Preston “Keith” Tarpely

A funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 6, 2012 at Hawker Funeral Home, 132 South Shilling Avenue in Blackfoot. Family will meet with friends and family from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at Hawker Funeral Home and for one hour prior to services on Thursday. Interment will follow at the Groveland Cemetery.

Funeral Services for Lance Hicks

The family welcomes his friends, acquaintances and coworkers in a celebration of his life on Friday, September 7, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the home of Leon and Tauna Butler, 47 W. 50 S. in Blackfoot, Idaho. Family is under the care of Hawker Funeral Home in Blackfoot.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

36 Comments

1. Darlene Adams
[September 1, 2012](#)

I am so very sorry for your loss. Please know your family is in my prayers.

[reply](#)

2. Michelle Smith
[September 1, 2012](#)

Here is a letter I wrote about Jackie...I am writing as a friend, former teammate and former roommate...

Jackie was my first friend in Pocatello, she's the reason I moved there after being my 'host' on my recruiting trip. Little did I know that she would become a roommate and best friend. We lived together, were on the track team together training in the same events, and even had the same classes together throughout college.

She was a wonderfully supportive and loving friend, roommate and teammate, always putting others ahead of her. I was lucky enough to share a bond with her in all of those ways, especially as a best friend and fellow heptathlete. We hep's (as we called ourselves) had a very special bond.

She was always the 'life of the party' the 'spirit of the team'. She just had one of those vivacious, infectious personalities that seemed to always lift you. Of course spending day and night together, I have thousands of memories of her and it's hard to pick just a few to share. She was always laughing, I remember our household of girls (all on the track team) spending many evenings just laughing and giggling practically to tears. We have so many funny memories. She was also very caring and motherly, serving as the mother of our household many times.

As a roommate, I remember family dinner nights, going to Walmart to take family photos and our roommate Christmases, which were the best! I remember her wearing the craziest outfits to costume parties, like

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Street nose, the track nose or the Berg (Goody's), just hanging out. I even remember her bringing a portable radio to the Berg during football season to listen to the games when we couldn't travel to them. She just had to cheer for her Bengals!

She took me in like a sister, bringing me along to many family dinners and events, making me feel like I was part of the family. Looking back, that was so important to this transplant from Nebraska.

She had a very inspirational side as well. She could cheer for you during a race or event, and you could hear her from ANYWHERE at the track! She was always cheering and always supportive, even if she was in the middle of competing in her 15 events that meet.

She was an amazing athlete that grew into an amazing coach. As a heptathlete you can image that training day-in and day-out for a seven-event competition can be grueling, but she always made it interesting. She'd make practices fun, usually by performing one of her childhood dance routines, but also pushed us to the max with her competitiveness. She was always pushing us to do better, to be better. She was such a fighter, such a competitor. I always feared standing next to her at the starting line or even at home when she challenged one of us to an arm wrestling contest. She wasn't afraid to challenge anyone, and I mean anyone, to an arm wrestling contest.

It's hard to put into words what Jackie meant to me, my roommates, my teammates and Idaho State. I have been asked "What was she like?"...all I can think of was "She's Jackie." It's hard to describe her. She was her very own person, unlike anyone else. She was in a league of her own. Simply put, she just Jackie!

I can't even express how missed she is going to be, and by so many people. She has touched so many lives in such a positive way. Pocatello just won't be the same without her.

We love you Jackie and will NEVER forget you.

[reply](#)

Maggie (McQuade) England
[September 16, 2012](#)

Thank you Mish! That was perfect and exactly what I needed to hear.

[reply](#)

3.

Lisa Jolley
[September 1, 2012](#)

I ran with Jackie- she was so amazing a vibrant, she had a way about her that made you feel like you mattered. She always made me laugh. She will be very missed in my heart.

Lisa(Taylor) Jolley

[reply](#)

4.

Saïdjah & Laurens Looije
[September 2, 2012](#)

Dear Jackie,

We are going to miss you very much. You are a good friend, a great person and we love you!

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5.
Roger Horne
[September 2, 2012](#)

Just wanted to wish the Poulson Family my heart felt condolences. I went to school with Jackie at ISU. She was a great person to be around.

[reply](#)

6.
Mary Jo Mulick
[September 2, 2012](#)

Jackie's family,

I am Mattie Mulick's mother. It was such a priviledge to know Jackie. This spring, Mattie, Chris Belcher, and I went to dinner together. This summer, Jackie helped paint Mattie's new rental in Pocatello. She was such a good friend. Of course, there are many more times together. I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you.

Love, Mary Jo Mulick

[reply](#)

7.
Bruce, Shawna, Brody and Cooper Barnum
[September 3, 2012](#)

We were at ISU from 1997-2007 and our boys were just toddlers. Jackie spent an overnight weekend watching the boys so I could go on the wife trip to CA with the football team. The boys loved Jackie, always running down the ramp into her office to find her. She would take them down to the turf to jump on the mats!

We are struggling to believe this tragic event has happened to such a wonderful young lady, as well as the men who tried to save her.

Love and prayers from the Barnum Family!

[reply](#)

8.
Jim Hughed
[September 3, 2012](#)

I just say my heart and prayers go out to the pouison family. I did not know Jackie very well. The time spent around Jackie was great she always had a smile and a thumbs up and everyone around her was having fun. She will be greatly missed.

[reply](#)

9.
Kathleen Raske
[September 3, 2012](#)

My thoughts and prayers go out to both the Poulson Family and the entire ISU track team, and especially Dave Neilsen. Jackie was a great coach and a great person. It was evident that she gave her coaching skills, passion, and heart to all associated with the team. As a friend and colleague, I will truly miss her!

Coach Kathleen Raske, Head Coach, Sacramento State

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Doug Baughman
[September 3, 2012](#)

Words cannot express how sorry I am for her family. I will always cherish our memories and time spent together. Thank you for just being you and always seeing the good in everybody. You will truly be missed.

[reply](#)

11.

Willie Banks
[September 4, 2012](#)

I had the honor of meeting Jackie 4 years ago while doing a track and field clinic at ISU. I found her to be a wonderful young lady, full of joy and kindness. She certainly made my experience in Pocatello much more enjoyable. Each year I would return to Pocatello to do the Simplot Games or the Simplot track camp and Jackie would be there to greet me with a smile and embrace. She will always be remembered.

To Jackis's family, I know this is a difficult time. I hope that you will find some solace in the loving words that her friends are posting here and in letters and cards that have, and will, reach your doorstep. The world has lost a special person but heaven has gained an angel...

God Bless you,

Willie Banks

[reply](#)

12.

Jay and Mary Leyshon
[September 4, 2012](#)

So sorry for your loss. May God bless you and your family.

[reply](#)

13.

Kay Feldtman
[September 4, 2012](#)

The family of Ray Skinner wishes to convey our very deepest sympathy. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Lyle, Kay & Jim.

[reply](#)

14.

Stan Kerr
[September 4, 2012](#)

Jackie was a tough competitor. Coaching against her was always a challenge because she just kept on coming at you with a great competitive fire. The real appreciation though, that I have for Jackie is how she graciously moved from athlete to coach & friend all the while staying true to her character that could dish out insults and humor in the same breath.

Thoughts and prayers to the Poulson family and whole ISU community.

[reply](#)

15.

Ron Bolinger
[September 4, 2012](#)

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On behalf of the American Falls School District, the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff and students, please accept our sincere condolences for the loss of Jackie. We all remember Jackie as a spirited and engaging young lady, as an outstanding athlete, and a great student. Her years since leaving AFHS have made us proud with her many achievements. Please know our hearts and prayers are with you all as you go through this difficult time.

Sincerely,
American Falls School District

[reply](#)

16.

Jessica Green
[September 4, 2012](#)

We am so very sorry for your loss. Please know that your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Jessica & Jordan Green

[reply](#)

17.

Lori Bauer
[September 4, 2012](#)

Larry, Debbie and family,

I am so sorry for the loss of your beautiful daughter. She was such a kind and caring person...I remember her sweet smile growing up. My prayers are with you...

[reply](#)

18.

Larry, Debbie, Fred and family
[September 4, 2012](#)

We are so sorry for the loss of Jackie. Our prayers are with you.

Mike & Sheree Hess

[reply](#)

19.

Bill Caccia
[September 4, 2012](#)

Deb- Please know that Jackie and you are in my thoughts and prayers. Respectfully, Bill Caccia

[reply](#)

20.

Tina & Vince Fehringer
[September 4, 2012](#)

We will never forget Jackie's contagious smile, positive attitude and the all around great young woman she was. Our heartfelt thoughts are with your family.

Tina and Vince Fehringer

[reply](#)

21.

Tammy Ramsey
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My fondest memory of Jackie is when my son James was about 4 months old. Jackie would come to our River spot on Sundays with Fred and Deb bailey. Here She was this amazing athlete, competitive, young woman Who volunteered to hold my son and rock him to sleep. Now that Alone warms my heart, but even better she went along with my sons Weird need to put his hand in your mouth to fall asleep. She didn't Blink an eye or flinch and that totally touched me. When my son got Older he would always ask if his "girlfriend" was going to be At the river. He just loved her as I know she loved him.

I also loved the bantering that she and my husband would Do across the volleyball net. She knew how to get him fired up! We loved when she would come down because she made Everything fun! She was "the life of the party".

I will miss her smile and her laughter. She will be Remberered by all of our family as someone very Special and loved.

[reply](#)

22. Shirley & Steve Lawson
[September 5, 2012](#)

Deb and family – our prayers for comfort are with you all as you struggle to deal with Jackie's untimely passing from our world. She is now in the arms of the angels and will be forever lovingly watching over you. - Shirley & Steve Lawson

[reply](#)

23. Bob & Gail Cox
[September 5, 2012](#)

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Jackie was a beautiful young woman and will be truly missed by all those who knew her. She touched so many lives.

[reply](#)

24. Tim Flagstad
[September 5, 2012](#)

I had the privilege and honor of covering the Idaho State track and field team during my four years at the Idaho State Journal. She always went out of her way to help me with my stories and made my job easy. I know how the team is one big family and how that will bring comfort—and, yes, additional sorrow—during this tough time.

I was shocked and saddened to hear the tragic news and immediately remembered how Jackie was everywhere on the ISU campus—soccer, football, basketball, Davis Field, Reed Gym. It didn't matter. She's a true Bengal.

My best Jackie memory was being at Davis Field in 2008 watching Stacy train with Dave when I got a text from Jackie saying she had just received confirmation about her spot at the Olympic Trials. I had the joy of sharing the news with Dave and Stacy, as, of course, they didn't have their phones at the track.

Best wishes to Jackie's f large group considering all her years with the track and field program.

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25.

Oana I.

[September 5, 2012](#)

Every Bengal heart everywhere is torn apart by this loss. Jackie was a ball of joy. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Oana Iacovita

[reply](#)

26.

Misty Burry Crawford

[September 5, 2012](#)

Debbie, Larry and family...

Your family is my thoughts and prayers. I have many wonderful memories of your family from growing up. May your memories with Jackie help you through this very difficult time.

Misty & Lee Crawford and boys

[reply](#)

27.

The Curry family

[September 5, 2012](#)

We are so very sorry for your loss. There are no words to express the sorrow when our loved ones are taken away so young. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

[reply](#)

28.

Cheri (Cuoio) Mattson

[September 5, 2012](#)

Dear Poulson Family and Nikki (Poulson) Cuoio,

Although I did not know Jackie personally, she sounded like an amazing person. I am truly sorry for your loss!

Cheri & Eric Mattson

[reply](#)

29.

Frank Mercogliano

[September 5, 2012](#)

I remember Jackie as a student-athlete, and moreso as an assistant coach, one that love ISU, and the student-athletes. Jackie touched the lives of so many people, and it was always fun when she would wander into the office to grab a drink from the fridge, or just see what was going on.

Her legacy will live on in those that knew her, and those that loved her. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Frank Mercogliano

[reply](#)

30.

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[September 5, 2012](#)

Kyle,

I am Evan Tripp's daughter. I met you and Jackie up steelhead fishing when my parents got one of Nellie's pups from you. I do not know you well, but you two were both so nice and I just wanted you to know how sorry I am for you. I am so sorry that this ever happened. Jackie was so nice to my kids and those puppies!! You could tell just from that time that she was a super nice person. I did not know your dad, but I am sure he was great too. I am so sorry. You and everyone else who was involved in this horrible tragedy will be in our thoughts.

Brianna Bowhay

[reply](#)

31.

Kevin and Ann Loveland

[September 5, 2012](#)

Larry,

We are very sorry for your loss. I'm sure such a great person will be missed. We hope you'll feel peace during this very difficult time.

[reply](#)

32.

Amber Cox Titus

[September 5, 2012](#)

Jackie brought so many fun memories to our lives! She was such a wonderful friend. She will forever be missed. Please accept my most heartfelt sympathies for your loss...my thoughts are with your family during this difficult time. With deepest sympathy,

Amber (Cox) Titus

[reply](#)

33.

Holly Hunter Cortez

[September 7, 2012](#)

My heart is breaking for your loss... I still can't quite believe Jackie is gone and I know that your entire family will miss her dearly.

Kristen, I still remember Jackie hanging out at all of our practices. It made my heart fill with joy when she finally grew into the athlete and out of the "tag-a-long" little girl we all loved so much! She made me so proud and I just have to smile when I think of her persistence!

The journey to healing will be long and there will be many challenges yet to come, but please know that you will all continue to be in our thoughts and prayers...

God bless you all,

Holly Hunter Cortez

[reply](#)

34.

Idaho Digital Learning

[September 7, 2012](#)

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On behalf of the entire staff and faculty of Idaho Digital Learning, please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss. Our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Idaho Digital Learning

[reply](#)

35.

Andre Phillips
[September 8, 2012](#)

To the Poulson Family,

I met Jackie about ten years ago or so when she was still a student athlete at ISU. My initial thought was "What a specimen of an athlete". She was tall, strong, and determined to win. I have since gotten to know her as a friend and I thought she was one of the most generous, witty, fun-loving, and sincere persons I have ever known.

When I heard about her passing...I was in shock for a few days...That was my buddy...The individual that I knew when I arrived to Pocatello would always give me that great big smile and hug.

September 5th will always remind me of my friends homegoing celebration.....and the day I was born..... My birthday!

My heart goes out to the family and friends who knew her best!

My thought and prayers go out to you,

Andre'

[reply](#)

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