



## Craig G. Smith

February 12, 1981 - March 5, 2020

Craig Smith, age 39 of Columbus, Ohio died at home on March 5, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Ali Condron Smith of Columbus and his parents Tom and Reva Smith of Murrells Inlet, South Carolina; his sister Michelle, her husband Randy Hann and niece Amanda, also of Murrells Inlet; his in laws Jim and Dulce Condron and brother-in-law Sean all of Columbus. Surviving aunts and uncles include Sally Smith of Murrells Inlet, Tami Niederkoehr, Bob and Elaine Niederkoehr and Larry and Patty Niederkoehr, all of Upper Sandusky and Mark and Margie Niederkoehr of Dayton plus his special Niederkoehr cousins. Craig graduated from Dublin Scioto High School in 1999. He played on multiple sports teams including basketball, golf and lacrosse. He was a distinguished McNair Scholar and graduate of the University of South Carolina, earning degrees in Business and Sports Management. He was also a member of the club lacrosse team at USC. He first worked for the Tampa Bay Lightning of the NHL. While working for them in 2004, the Lightning won the coveted Stanley Cup. Craig then returned home to work for the Columbus Blue Jackets. Smitty, as he was known, was a Blue Jacket through and through. During his 14 years with the organization he worked with many business people in the Columbus area as a Corporate Account Executive and finally as Director of Corporate Sponsorships. He was the recipient of the inaugural Golden Rule Award presented by the Blue Jackets organization. His coworkers and business partners knew him as a friend not just a person to do business with. For the past year he has been Vice President of Marketing for

Papa Johns Columbus. While working there he continued his efforts to raise funds for cancer research by helping to organize and run the Papa Johns Charity Challenge golf event, which benefits the Buckeye Cruise for Cancer. Craig was an avid golfer and loved the challenge of playing many of Central Ohio's toughest golf courses, as well as others throughout the country. He was also loyal to the Detroit Tigers and Lions and that Team Up North, and of course his beloved Gamecocks! His favorite thing to do was be with friends and family around his backyard pool or watching any sporting event. Craig's other most cherished moments were spent with Ali and their two Frenchies, Rosie and Vinny. Craig fought valiantly against cancer for 4 years with courage, inner strength and a sense of concern for all who cared about him. The family would like to extend our sincere gratitude and thanks to the staffs at The James Cancer hospital, the Mayo Clinic, and Ohio Health, including hospice, for their dedicated care and support. The family will receive friends Sunday March 8 from 2-4 PM and 6-8 PM at the Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home at 515 High St. Worthington, Ohio. A prayer service will be held there at 7:30 Sunday evening. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Tuesday, March 10, at 10 AM, at Immaculate Conception Church at 414 E North Broadway St. Columbus, Ohio. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Craig's name to the Papa John's Charity Challenge at this link <http://papajohnscharitychallenge.com/donate/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home  
515 High Street  
Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 885-4006  
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

## Visitation

MAR 8. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home  
515 High Street  
Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 885-4006  
info@rutherfordfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/>

## Memorial Mass

MAR 10. 10:00 AM (ET)

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
414 E. N. Broadway  
Columbus, OH 43214

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rutherford Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Craig G. Smith*



---

**Rutherford Funeral Homes** - March 08, 2020 at 12:28 PM



“ *Craig G. Smith*

---

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *When I think of Craig, my memories go back to all the pick-up basketball games we shared on my front drive way. It was a sloppy 2 on 2 no-rules court, where most of the time was spent in someone's face about a hack on a failed lay up, or pretending we were Barkley and throwing a little too much elbow on a rebound. But when Craig would join in he would bring a certain class to the game and elevated us all to a different level. It felt wrong to foul him because he actually knew what he was doing. Even while raining down threes from sidewalk range he wouldn't rub it in and just held that quiet confidence. But you weren't on his team I remember after a good shot that half smile of his would do all the trash talk it needed to. He will be dearly missed.*

---

**Dan McMahon** - March 13, 2020 at 11:19 AM

AL

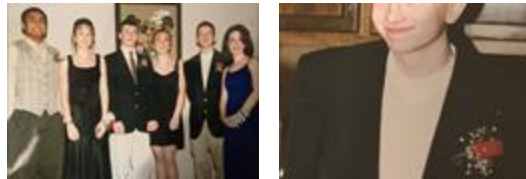
“ Be at peace my friend. I will always remember our amazing times together with the lightning with fond memories.

Alec - March 10, 2020 at 09:25 PM



“ Craig was the “whole package”. He was kind, intelligent, hard-working, authentic, fun, athletic and yet so humble. He made our friend group so much better, we all loved him. I’ve not seen him in so many years but the character he had was deep and real; I’m sure his character only grew in recent years with marriage and battling cancer. Though Craig was a peer, he was someone I always looked up to. He was a joy to be around, he encouraged me and challenged me to reach for more. I am so sad to hear Craig has passed, he was truly one in a million, one of the good ones. He has my respect and all his family has my deepest sympathies. May you always treasure the memories of Craig with joy, remembering his strength, character and kindness.

A childhood friend,  
Shannon (Butler) Brooks



Shannon Butler Brooks - March 09, 2020 at 10:11 PM

BB

“ Rest in Peace our friend. Good Luck and may God Bless You in Heaven! Barrie & Kathy Brandt family. XOXOXO

Buckeye Barrie - March 09, 2020 at 04:53 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Craig G. Smith.



March 09, 2020 at 01:46 PM



“ Dearest Ali, and family, my deepest sympathies to you all, on this tragic loss. May God give you the strength you need during this extremely difficult and sad time. Ali, I am certain that you two lovebirds will be together again, someday, in Heaven. Sending my love your way.....xo Richie Slaughter (Chicago).

**Richie Slaughter** - March 09, 2020 at 12:06 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Craig G. Smith.



March 09, 2020 at 11:28 AM



“ With Love, Your Contract Exteriors Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Craig G. Smith.



**With Love, Your Contract Exteriors Family** - March 09, 2020 at 09:10 AM

TF

“ *The SC gang: Jen, Becca, Lili, Carmen & families purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Craig G. Smith.*



---

**The SC gang: Jen, Becca, Lili, Carmen & families** - March 08, 2020 at 06:14 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Craig G. Smith.*



---

March 08, 2020 at 05:41 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Craig G. Smith.*



---

March 08, 2020 at 05:12 PM

HW

“ *Deepest Sympathy for your incredible loss.  
Randy and Helen (Pagnard) Wheat*

---

**Helen Wheat** - March 08, 2020 at 10:39 AM

BR

“ *Ben, Katie, Henry, and Maggie Redling purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Craig G. Smith.*



---

**Ben, Katie, Henry, and Maggie Redling** - March 07, 2020 at 08:48 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Craig G. Smith.*



---

March 07, 2020 at 12:32 PM

ME

“ *Mark E. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Craig G. Smith.*



---

**Mark E.** - March 07, 2020 at 09:14 AM

JF

“ *Ali and Family: I didn't know Craig very well but he was a very welcome addition to our family. Always knew him to be a very kind person. He is now "Over The Sunset Mountains" where there is no pain. Love to you all, Michael Frey*

---

**Jason Michael Frey** - March 07, 2020 at 07:49 AM

MF

“ I be know Craig since he was 5 years old. His family would come to Michigan in the summer to golf and in the winter to ski. So many good memories but my favorite was golfing with him, Tom, and my husband, Ron, at Burt Lake Country Club. He was about 12 years old. He had 4 chip ins on the front 9. It was absolutely incredible. We told him this was very very unusual and not to expect it in the back 9. He only got 2 chip ins on the back 9 and he was pretty upset.

Marcie Foster - March 07, 2020 at 07:02 AM

SY

“ One of my favorite memories of Craig, was that he introduced us all to O.A.R., Crazy Game of Poker will always bring back special memories from freshman year at Carolina!

Seth Young - March 06, 2020 at 10:46 PM

MR

“ Marc Ramsey purchased the Simply Elegant Spa thiphyllum for the family of Craig G. Smith.



Marc Ramsey - March 06, 2020 at 10:41 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Craig G. Smith.



March 06, 2020 at 07:49 PM

NH

“ Craig was more a friend than a partner. Although we started the relationship from a business perspective it quickly turned into a really personal relationship. Will surely miss him and his ever welcoming smile. Rest In Peace my friend! You are in a better place now and know that you have touched so many people in a positive way.

Nikhil Hunshikatti - March 06, 2020 at 06:41 PM

MZ

“ Whenever we saw Craig, he always had a fabulous smile on his face. We have wonderful memories traveling around with Craig to watch the Columbus Blue Jackets play. Sue and I will always remember how welcoming he was to us. Mike and Sue Zazon

Mike and Sue Zazon - March 06, 2020 at 05:00 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Craig G. Smith.



March 06, 2020 at 04:34 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Craig G. Smith.



March 06, 2020 at 04:23 PM

BM

“ *Barrie, Kathy, Karrie, Kasey and Mr. Mike purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Craig G. Smith.*



---

**Barrie, Kathy, Karrie, Kasey and Mr. Mike** - March 06, 2020 at 02:12 PM