

Post-Tribune SPORTS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ara Parseghian is carried off the field by his players after leading Notre Dame to a 24-11 win over Texas in the 1971 Cotton Bowl. Parseghian, who took over a foundering Notre Dame football program and restored it to glory, died Wednesday.

ARA PARSEGHIAN 1923-2017

Teacher. Leader. Mentor. Coach.

Notre Dame football community reacts to Parseghian's death with stories of character

BY PAUL SKRBINA | Chicago Tribune

The hand-written letters of encouragement and advice meant a lot.

Ara Parseghian, the author of those letters Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly cherishes, meant more.

Parseghian, a legendary former Notre Dame football coach who led the Irish to two national championships in 11 seasons with them, died early Wednesday morning at his home in Granger, Ind.

He was 94.

"Ara was a remarkable man," Kelly said in a statement. "We come across thousands and thousands of people throughout our life, and most of the time they come and go. But there are certain people, from the moment you meet them, you realize they're truly unique. That's Ara.

"His wit, his charm, his patience, his kindness, his foresight and his humility truly define him."

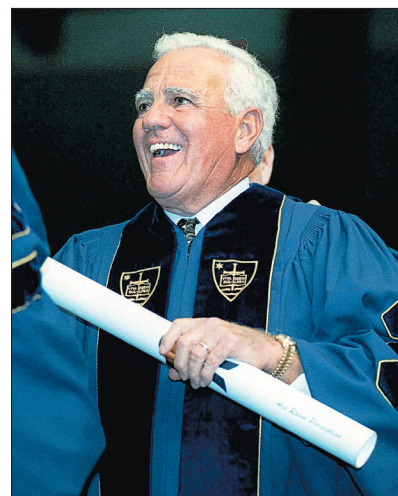
Parseghian mailed Kelly notes after most games during Kelly's first several seasons as Irish coach.

"I'll always keep them close to me," said Kelly, who called Parseghian a "mentor" and "a true friend."

Parseghian is survived by his wife, Kathleen, whom he married in 1948, and two children, daughter Kris Humbert and son Michael. The couple's daughter, Karan, died in 2012 after battling multiple sclerosis.

Parseghian had been at a nursing care

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JOE RAYMOND/AP

Ara Parseghian received an honorary doctorate from Notre Dame in 1997.

Golden legacy

Ara Parseghian ended his college head coaching career after three stints and 24 seasons, with two national championships and a .739 winning percentage.

Year	School	W	L	TPct.
'51-55	Miami-Ohio	39	6	1.859
'56-63	Northwestern	36	35	1.507
1964	Notre Dame	9	1	0.900
1965	Notre Dame	7	2	1.750
1966	Notre Dame	9	0	1.950
1967	Notre Dame	8	3	0.800
1968	Notre Dame	7	2	1.750
1969	Notre Dame	8	2	1.773
1970	Notre Dame	10	1	0.909
1971	Notre Dame	8	2	0.800
1972	Notre Dame	8	3	0.727
1973	Notre Dame	11	0	0.1000
1974	Notre Dame	10	2	0.833
Totals	24 seasons	170	58	6.739
At ND	11 seasons	95	17	4.836

Parseghian who restored championship legacy at Notre Dame, later built legacy of philanthropy after coaching, dies at 94

BY RALPH D. RUSSO | Associated Press

Ara Parseghian reached the pinnacle of his profession at Notre Dame and endured the most painful personal losses as a father and grandfather.

He walked away from coaching at the age of 51 after winning two national championships, but never really left Notre Dame. He built a legacy through philanthropy that he hoped would be far more meaningful than any of his many victories.

Parseghian died Wednesday at his home in Granger where he lived with Katie Parseghian, his wife of 68 years. He was 94.

Parseghian had recently returned home after spending more than a week in a nursing care facility in South Bend. He was treated for an infection in his surgically repaired hip, and was still receiving round-the-clock care at home.

"Among his many accomplishments, we will remember him above all as a teacher, leader and mentor who brought out the very best in his players, on and off the field," Notre Dame President Rev. John Jenkins said in statement. "He continued to demonstrate that leadership by raising millions of research dollars seeking a cure for the terrible disease that took the lives of three of his grandchildren. Whenever we asked for Ara's help at Notre Dame, he was there."

Parseghian took over at Notre Dame in 1964 when the Fighting Irish were down.

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DIAMONDBACKS 3, CUBS 0

Arrieta's new look looks like old one

Although not as dominant as in 2015, Cubs righty 'trending in right direction'



PAUL SULLIVAN

It was two years ago this week that Jake Arrieta began one of the greatest stretch runs the game has seen.

In 13 second-half starts in 2015, from July 30 to Oct. 2, Arrieta went 11-0

with a 0.57 earned-run average, leading the Cubs to the postseason before tossing a shutout against the Pirates in the wild-card game at Pittsburgh.

Every Cubs fan had complete confidence whenever Arrieta took the mound, matching Arrieta's staunch belief in himself.

No one expects him ever to repeat that stretch again, except perhaps Arrieta. After a disappointing first half of 2017, he began a turnaround in July and hasn't looked back.

Working with newly arrived catcher Alex Avila on Wednesday, Arrieta was dominant over seven innings in a 3-0 loss to the Diamondbacks, allowing one earned run on three hits while striking out eight.

Arrieta now has a 1.85 ERA over his last six starts and has yielded six or fewer hits in his last 14.

Is it possible for Arrieta to get on a second-half roll as he did in 2015 en route to his Cy Young award?

"I don't see why not?" Arrieta replied. "I think it's possible for all our guys to elevate themselves and pitch at a really high level or compete on defense or at the plate on a level higher than they have currently. That's just having a lot of confidence in the guys that we have. We expect to do some really special things this season and we shouldn't think otherwise."

Manager Joe Maddon said after the loss it was "pretty reminiscent" of the 2015 Jake. When I asked him beforehand if a 2015 repeat was possible he said it was "tough to imagine" anyone doing it again.

"That was a unique situation," he said. "I don't even look for that quite frankly. That was so surreal in a sense, the way he nailed that whole thing down."

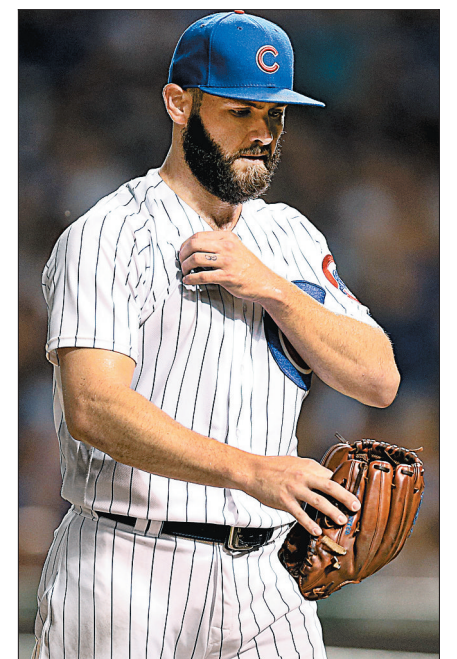
"But anything close to that is still spectacular. He's trending in the right direction. Why? Because he knows where the fastball is going."

Maddon said fastball command allows Arrieta to last longer in games and takes a lot of stress off the bullpen. He entered July throwing fewer than five innings in three of his previous four starts, but since then Arrieta has failed to last at least six innings only once in six starts.

Cubs starters are a combined 11-2 with a 2.61 ERA in the first 18 games since the break, ending a prolonged stretch of mediocrity. Arrieta has been the catalyst for the upturn.

He goes, they go. "Part of it is his confidence," Maddon said. "If you go out there knowing, 'I want to throw the ball there, and now I can,' it feels pretty good."

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CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Jake Arrieta walks toward the Cubs dugout after retiring the Diamondbacks in the sixth inning Wednesday night.