

Oh, Baby! Surrogate Mom Gives Birth to Grandson

By Greg Waxberg

“As a mother, you always want what is best for your children,” says Megan Barker, high school volleyball official and basketball referee in California ... and surrogate grandmother.

At age 14, Barker’s daughter Maddie Coleman was diagnosed with Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser

Maddie and her husband, Tyler, the gift of parenthood.”

Was Barker concerned about a higher risk of birth defects? “No, because birth defects are determined by the biological eggs. The eggs were Maddie’s — 24 years old, not 48.” And so, the child was carried through In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) with Barker as surrogate, and Gus Coleman was born on Oct. 22, 2016.

This whole time, Barker, who has also taught first grade for 20 years at a nearby elementary school, continued with her officiating jobs. Barker is part of a family tradition that has included her mother (who started their local volleyball officials association more than 30 years ago, and is still officiating), father (high school wrestling), older brother (college basketball) and sister and youngest brother (volleyball).

A member of NASO who has officiated volleyball for 25 years and basketball for 10, Barker officiated volleyball until *one week* before she gave birth. She was back on the stand for the postseason a week later (she had completed the first half of the 2015-16 basketball season before starting fertility clinics).

Aside from ultimately not fitting into her uniform, which necessitated having to buy new pants and a new shirt, and facing some difficulty with climbing the volleyball ladders, Barker says the pregnancy was easy.

“I was fortunate to have a healthy, great pregnancy. No sickness. No bed rest,” Barker said.

What would she like other female officials to know about what she went through? “Challenges will arise, and you can overcome them with hard work and perseverance,” she says. And Barker says a woman can officiate while being pregnant. “If your body can do the job, then you need to do it. Don’t let other people tell you that you can’t do something you want to do.”

Greg Waxberg is an award-winning freelance writer from Branchburg, N.J. □



Megan Barker, right, volunteered as a surrogate for her daughter, Maddie Coleman, and gave birth to her grandson, Gus, last October.

(MRKH) Syndrome, a disorder in which the cervix and uterus do not fully develop. Ten years later, doctors discovered a tumor on Maddie’s ovary, so she could not carry her own child.

“When Maddie was diagnosed, we knew she’d never *physically* be able to carry a baby,” Megan said. “I looked at it not as a detriment to her, but as a challenge. We considered the possibility of adoption or another surrogate, and then we came up with the idea of *me* being the surrogate. I was healthy enough and passed the required tests, and it would be a lot cheaper than paying someone to be a surrogate. But the *biggest* reason for me to do it was that I wanted to give

Last Hurrah for Longtime Official



Terry Bupp
Age: 69
West York, Pa.

Terry Bupp’s final basketball game was a hurrah, in a way, for him and high school sports.

In February, the longest-tenured official in the York-Adams chapter of Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association basketball officials walked away from officiating after 48 years. “You know when you sort of get to the end,” said Bupp, who registered with the York-Adams chapter of officials in September 1969. “You have that feeling, the time’s up.”

Bupp walked away as head football coach at West York after 33 years in 2005. A few years later, he stepped down after 18 years as the Bulldogs baseball coach.

SOURCE: GAMETIMEPA.COM

Coroner Investigator at Home as Wrestling Official



Tom Stortz
Age: 55
Butler, Ohio

Tom Stortz is a Richland County coroner’s investigator, but he also has been a wrestling official for 33 years.

Stortz began officiating after he and two other Clear Fork High School coaches decided they would all get their refereeing licenses to become better coaches. Stortz said being a wrestling official is something he really loves. “I like working with kids,” he said.

Stortz can be found in area gymnasiums on many nights and weekends, officiating high school matches, having participated in wrestling and track while in high school. He currently serves as secretary-treasurer of the North Central Ohio Wrestling Referees Association.

SOURCE: MANSFIELD (OHIO) NEWS JOURNAL

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