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## Local sports hero dies of cancer

### obituary: Jim White is remembered best for his record-setting kick.

By RYAN DAUGHERTY/Staff Writer

BARSTOW — It was 1968. Barstow High School was playing Ontario High in the California Interscholastic Federation playoffs when a 58-yard cannon shot cleared the uprights with, as one assistant coach put it, “a little room to spare.”

“It was a line drive. There was no arc to it,” said Dale Fries, an assistant football coach at Barstow College from 1967 to 1971 who saw the field goal first-hand.

At that time, it was the longest field goal in the history of the game. The kick was two yards longer than the 15-year record held by Bert Rechichar of the Baltimore Colts, and held up until 1970 when Tom Dempsey nailed a 63-yarder for the New Orleans Saints.

The kicker, James White, 50, died of cancer on Thursday, May 24, 2001, at the Hopewell House Hospice Center in Portland, Ore. Those who knew him remember his spirit to be as strong as his leg.

“He had a defective heart, and he was one of the hardest working kids we ever had,” said Albert Canizales, the Barstow College head football coach in 1969 and 1970, where White kicked for two years.

White’s father, Don White, served as president of Barstow College from 1968 to 1973. His stepmother, Karen White, said he received 105 college scholarship offers before deciding on San Diego State University. She also said Jim died on exactly the same day as his father, 16 years later.

In addition to football, White played basketball in high school and at Barstow College and was an outstanding track athlete at BHS.

But he is best remembered for The Kick.

“I remember it vividly,” said Chuck Hubauer, who was an assistant football coach at BHS in 1968. “It cleared by plenty. He had all the leg in the world.”

“A lot of people were cheering, but I don’t think a lot like me realized the magnitude of it at the time,” said Paul Veloz, a guidance counselor at Calico High School who was Barstow High’s quarterback from 1968 to 1970.

“I think a couple days later, the Monday morning news said it was the longest recorded field goal on all levels.”

White’s survivors include his children, Laura and Donald White of Apple Valley; his mother, Melva Eubanks of Santa Barbara; and two sisters, Bonnie Burns of Fresno and Jennifer Seger of Beaverton, Ore.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Leslie Ann and Holly Opal White.

A private ceremony will be held.  
(Source: Desert Dispatch)