

## Clifford Purpur

Clifford J. "Fido" Purpur, 88, 2108 Sixth Ave. N., died Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2001, in Valley Memorial Home-Eldercare, Grand Forks.



Purpur

Clifford Joseph Purpur was born Sept. 26, 1912, the son of Adolph and Annie (Hausauer) Purpur in Grand Forks, where he attended school. He began playing professional

hockey in 1931 for the Minneapolis Millers. In 1933, he began playing in the National Hockey League with the St. Louis Eagles. From 1934 to 1940, he played in the American Hockey League with the St. Louis Flyers. From 1940, to 1945 he again played in the NHL with the Chicago Black Hawks, and the Detroit Red Wings. He played in two Stanley Cup Finals, once with the Black Hawks and once with the Red Wings. In 1946, he played hockey for the St. Paul Saints. He married Mary Schmid on June 9, 1947, in Grand Forks. They lived in Grand Forks, where he worked as a carpenter. He coached hockey for the Grand Forks Park Board and for Grand Forks Central High School. From 1949 to 1956 he was the hockey coach for UND and the Grand Forks Amerks. He was elected to the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 1974 and received the Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award in 1981. He later returned to his hometown and worked for Sanstrum and Olson until retiring in 1982. He was named North Dakota's seventh greatest sports figure of the 20th Century by Sports Illustrated. He was also a member of the St. Louis All-sports Hall of Fame and UND Athletic Hall of Fame. In 1993, city officials in Grand Forks renamed the city arena "Purpur Arena."

He is survived by his wife; sons, Clifford Jr (Betty), Richard (Kati), Gary (Cindy), and Scott (Holly), all of Grand Forks, Robert, Green Bay, Wis., and Steven (Doreen) Oakdale, Minn.; daughters, Barbara Pur-

He is survived by his wife; sons, Clifford Jr (Betty), Richard (Kati), Gary (Cindy), and Scott (Holly), all of Grand Forks, Robert, Green Bay, Wis., and Steven (Doreen) Oakdale, Minn.; daughters, Barbara Purpur and Marci (Bruce) Hecht, both of Grand Forks; 17 grandchildren; brothers, Raymond, Grand Forks, and Kenneth (Darlene) Rapid City, S.D.; and sisters, Lorraine (Ernie) Dokken, Seattle, Orell (Ray) Baker, Filer, Idaho, and Delores (Emil) Panzer, Grand Forks.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Albert.

■ **Services:** 1 p.m. Monday, Calvary Lutheran Church, Grand Forks.

■ **Visitation:** 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, with a 5 p.m. prayer service, Norman Funeral Home, Columbia Road, and one hour before services in the church.

■ **Burial:** Memorial Park Cemetery, Grand Forks.

