



## Isabella Hutchison

June 11, 1933 - September 21, 2024

Isabella Hutchison, 91, of Bloomington passed away on Saturday, September, 21, 2024 at the Hearthstone Health Campus.

She was born on June 11, 1933 in Bloomington Indiana the daughter of Walter B. and Marion S. (Beveridge) Hutchison.

Isabella was a pioneer for women's athletics since her high-schools days in Bloomington, IN. Isabella was the first woman to receive a scholarship from the Girl's Athletic Association at Bloomington High School. She then attended Indiana University, earning her Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Recreation in 1959 and her Master's in Health and Safety in 1963. During her athletic career, Isabella competed in basketball, field hockey, softball, volleyball, tennis and badminton where she was an All-Star in team sports and champion in tennis and badminton.

Post-graduation from Indiana University, Isabella continued her athletic career as a player-coach in the Class B Florida Women's Athletic League in volleyball, basketball and softball. In 1965, she arrived on the campus of the University of Miami tasked with beginning a women's intramural sports program. A position which leads her to be called the founder of the University of Miami women's athletic program. As Title XI became reality, Isabella was responsible for building the Miami women's athletic department into the forefront of all major universities by creating a full recruiting program for women's sports. Due to her accomplishments with the Hurricanes, Isabella was named Director of Women's Athletics in 1977. In 1979, and was inducted

into the University of Miami Hall of Fame in 2024. Isabella left Miami and returned to her Alma Mater as Athletic Director for Women's Sports at Indiana University until she eventually retired in 2000. Under her guidance at IU, the women's athletic department flourished in tennis, golf, track & field, cross country and softball. All consistently ranked in the nation's top 20. In addition, numerous women achieved national and conference championships and were awarded All-American and All-Conference status. Arguably, her most notable accomplishment was the conception of the I-Women's Club to recognize women's

athletics throughout the university's history.

Isabella is preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Marion Hutchison; and her sister, Mary Motts.

A private burial was held at the Clear Creek Cemetery where she was laid to rest with her parents.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements.

Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)

# Cemetery Details

## **Clear Creek Cemetery**

W Church Lane  
Bloomington, IN 47403

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ I met Isabella through her love of animals and always enjoyed our conversations. She had fun tales about her tenure at IU and professional relationship with Bobby Knight, as both respected each other. She was competitive but always looking out for others. In her retirement she was always giving rides to people to doctor appointments or helping them as she could. I did not know she had passed away until I Googled her name to show a friend all the accolades that would be on the Internet from the multiple Universities and organizations she worked with. I was sad to see her obituary pop up on the search. Rest on Peace, Isabella...you lived life big and I am proud to say I knew you.

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**Christina Swanson** - December 01, 2025 at 10:46 PM

GW

“ Correction to that last post by me (Geoff Williams) I had a conversation with my high school friend Craig and we are not sure who was on the court with us that day in Indiana. It may not have been Wilt Chamberlin - but someone else who had 2 NBA Championship rings. The rings was the one fact that I remember with clarity.  
Thank You again Isabel for such a wonderful experience.

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**Geoff Williams** - April 18, 2025 at 12:03 AM

GW

“ My best memory of Isabel (who was my grandmother's cousin and good friend) was when we went to visit Isabel in Indiana the year after the Hoosiers basketball team won the national championship in 1987 with Bobby Knight as their head coach. Since Isabel was the director of women's athletics at the university she pulled many strings while we were there to enable my high school friend Craig and I to play scrimmage on the famous IU court with some of the coaching staff and Wilt Chamberlin (who happened to be there). I didn't know who he was at the time. But someone noted that he wore 2 NBA Championship rings from when he played professionally in his younger days.

Isabel also arranged for Criag and I to sit behind the IU team bench during a game to experience the vibe of this highly talented team at the time. To say it mildly, Craig and I came back to Canada with a heightened fervor for the game - even though that cooled quickly as we only returned to our warm spots on the bench and didn't see much playing time as usual.

Thank You Isabel for that memory.

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**Geoff Williams** - April 12, 2025 at 09:56 AM

MM

“ What a kind soul and such a conversationalist. Isabel was always so kind to all those who sat and talked with her @ Hearthstone. She never knew a stranger and her mind was so sharp with her knowledge of sports.

Rest High Upon the Mountains!

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**marty Mathews** - September 30, 2024 at 05:03 PM