



Always  
America's  
Crush

Perry will forever be remembered as hunky Dylan McKay.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS, INCLUDING FIANCÉE WENDY MADISON BAUER, WERE DEVASTATED BY THE DEATH OF THE HOLLYWOOD ICON.

Luke Perry:  
*The Heartbreak  
Future With*





### Friends Till The End

The *90210* cast was shattered to learn of Perry's passing, especially **Shannen Doherty**, who played his love interest, Brenda. "Yesterday morning I got a phone call that devastated me," she wrote. "I'm struggling with this loss and am having a hard time with my thoughts."



### A Great Loss

A source reveals that Wendy Madison Bauer planned to marry Perry on Aug. 17 — and that his son Jack was to be the best man.

FOR MORE ON PERRY'S LIFE, WATCH **LUKE PERRY: IN HIS OWN WORDS**, AIRING SUNDAY, MARCH 17, AT 9ET/8PT ON REELZ.

# king out Him

**A**T the young age of 52, Luke Perry — who skyrocketed to fame as hunky bad boy Dylan McKay in the 1990s teen drama *Beverly Hills, 90210*, and starred in the hit CW series *Riverdale* — left behind a world of promise.

Family, friends, coworkers and fans were devastated by Perry's passing on March 4, following a sudden stroke. Now he'd never tie the knot with his 44-year-old fiancée, Wendy Madison Bauer; he'd never watch another of his 21-year-old son Jack's pro-wrestling matches; and he'd never hear about his 18-year-old daughter Sophie's latest adventures in Kenya. "Luke's loved ones were hoping he'd pull through," says *Star*'s source, "but, sadly, he never recovered."

### THE PERFECT DAD AND COMPANION

Up until his death, Perry — who'd had a cancer scare in 2015 when growths were found during a colonoscopy (and later removed) — was hard at work. And though he very much enjoyed his time playing Archie Andrews' dad, Fred, on the teen drama *Riverdale*, home was truly where his heart was.

"Luke loved his kids more than life itself," explains a source close to the actor, who was rushed to the hospital five days earlier, on Feb. 27. It was then that his family raced to his side, with Sophie flying home from Malawi, Kenya, and Jack putting all wrestling commitments aside.

"A lot has happened in this past week for me," said Sophie in a heartbreaking tribute to her father. "Everything is happening so fast. I made it back from Malawi just in time to be here with my family, and in the past 24 hours I have received an overwhelming amount of love and support. I cannot individually respond to the hundreds of beautiful and heartfelt messages, but I see them, and appreciate you all for sending positivity to my family and I. I'm not really sure what to say or do in this situation, it's something you aren't ever given a lesson on how to handle, especially when it's all happening in the public eye. So bear with me and know that I am grateful for all the love. Just, being grateful quietly."

Added Jack on his own Instagram account: "He was a lot of things to a lot of people. To me, he was always Dad. He loved and supported me in everything, and inspired me to be the best that I could possibly be. I've learned so much from you, and my heart is broken thinking about everything you won't be here for. I'll miss you every day that I walk this earth. I'll do whatever I can to carry on your legacy and make you proud. I love you Dad."

And so did many others. Perry had been quietly dating Wendy, a psychologist, for more than two years following his breakup with ex-wife **Minnie Sharp** — and the pair planned to marry. *Star* has learned that Wendy was among those in the room who made the difficult decision to take Perry off life support. "Everyone is in so much shock right now," adds our insider. "But they'll never forget the loving man who left them behind." ★