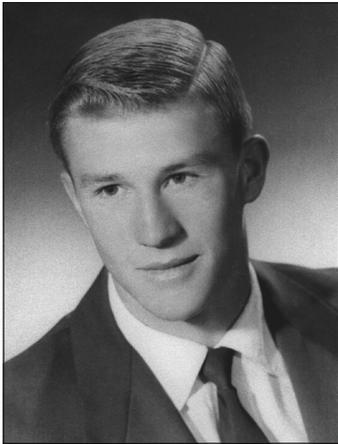




## *Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial*

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**BRUCE ANDREW**

February 20, 1939 - May 6, 2007

Stillwater High School Class of 1957

12th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

September 29, 2007

Bruce Andrew may no longer be with us physically, but you can bet this SHS Pioneer's spirit is looking down on us from heaven and, between golf shots, is telling us all to "hang in there". Bruce once commented in an interview, regarding his loss of vision, that "it's an inconvenience, but that's life. There are a lot of other people a lot worse of than I am." This comment was typical of the positive attitude that Bruce held throughout his life.

He was born February 20, 1939, in Stillwater to Forest and Beth Andrew. His two brothers, Bob and Gale, were very close to him. He married his high school sweetheart, Sandra Palmer Andrew, class of '59. He died May 6, 2007, after a lengthy illness.

While at Stillwater High School, Bruce was a three-sport letterman, playing quarterback on the football team, guard for the basketball team and second base in baseball. Even though he enjoyed all athletics, his great love was baseball. He started out in elementary school playing on Pat and Charlie O'Donnell's Junior Aggies team. His younger brother Gale was a batboy for the Aggies. He later partnered with his older brother Bob in sandlot ball with the Cushing Oilers and the OSU Cowboys.

Don Linsenmeyer, SHS class of '59 was a teammate of Bruce's on both the Pioneer basketball and baseball teams. Don commented on learning of Bruce's death that "Bruce was always a positive person, and I always looked up to him as a real leader. I was a sophomore when he was a senior, and he was always encouraging me to do my best and was always there to support me. I still remember what he said to me when we took the field for the finals of the state championship baseball game in 1957. He said, 'Just relax, throw your heat, and if they hit it, we will take care of the rest.' What a great guy and great example for others to follow. We will miss him."

Bruce graduated from SHS in 1957 where he was senior class president. He was also named "The Oklahoman's" 1957 All-State Player of the Year (an honor not awarded to another SHS Pioneer until Josh Fields in 2001 and Brett Anderson in 2006). He was also named to the All-State Baseball Team.

He graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1961 where he was a member of O-Club and Beta Theta Phi Fraternity. While at OSU he played second base for the OSU Cowboys and in '59 led the team in at bats, triples and stolen bases. He was in the top three in hits, RBI's, and runs. In 1960 he led the team in most defensive categories. In 1961 he was once again the team captain, and he had a .400 batting average. He was named to two College World Series All-Tournament teams, twice was selected as an All-Big Eight selection and was named All-American. The O-State Sports Report and the Daily Oklahoman also listed him on the OSU All-Century Baseball Team at the second base position.

It should be noted that Bruce played second base for the only Pioneer team to win the state title and the only OSU Cowboy team to win the NCAA championship.

His professional career started in 1961 when he signed with the Chicago White Sox as a middle infielder. He played minor league ball with the White Sox for six years before Chicago hired him to be an area scout for Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. He joined the Major League Scouting Bureau in 1977 as the bureau's West Coast Supervisor and helped shape the bureau's use of the free agent report form and computers, two legacies that are common place in free agent scouting today.

He moved to the Colorado Rockies as the expansion club's West Coast supervisor prior to the 1993 season and held that job until vision problems forced him off the road. He retired in 1997.

Following his retirement he was named to the OSU Baseball Hall of Fame in 1997 and was named West Coast Scout of the Year in 1998 by the Major League Baseball Scouting Bureau.

He enjoyed playing golf and although "legally blind" he made his second career hole-in-one playing at Lakeside in 2000 which was witnessed by two of his golfing buddies, Dick Powell and Bob McCracken. His first hole-in-one was at Stillwater Golf and Country Club and Bruce commented jokingly that at least he got to see the first one.

Farewell Bruce, we all love and miss you. Keep those aces flying in heaven.

Presenters

Keith Thomas, Stillwater High School Class of 1957

Stan Ward, Stillwater High School Class of 1957