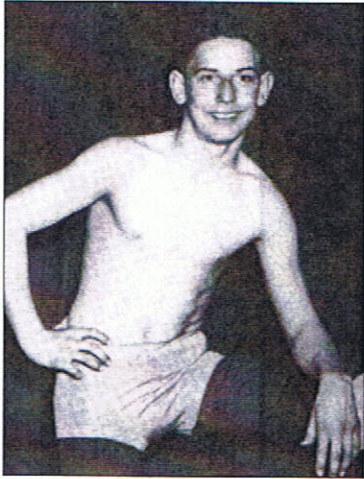




Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



WILLIAM G. "BILL" BROWN

November 16, 1938 - September 27, 2013
Stillwater High School Class of 1956

19th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony
October 4, 2014

William G. "Bill" Brown was born in Carney, Oklahoma on November 16, 1938, to Roy L. and Beulah Cypert Brown. The family lived in Kansas during World War II and then returned to Stillwater, where Bill attended Lincoln Elementary School.

Bill played shortstop for the Junior Aggies and toured Oklahoma traveling in the back of the O'Donnell pickup, playing some of the best teams in the state. In junior high, he wrestled at 86 pounds and gave tumbling exhibitions. As a sophomore, he was a state champion at 103 pounds even though he didn't weigh that much. As a senior, he and Barney Esparaza were co-captains, and he wrestled at 120 pounds. He was a member of the 1954 Stillwater High School Championship team.

After Bill's graduation in 1956, Myron Roderick recruited him for Oklahoma A&M, now Oklahoma State. The first day on the mat, Bill injured his knee and Dr. Gallagher had to operate. The injury ended his wrestling career.

Bill then joined the Naval Reserve and spent two years on active duty. He was stationed on Kwajalein Island where he met his best friend Lou Ussery. The remainder of his active duty was on the USS Norton Sound.

After his discharge from active duty, Bill married Ruth Helt (SHS '60). They had one son, Billy (SHS '92), who now lives in Nashville, Tennessee with his wife Alison. Bill owned and operated Brown Tire in Cushing for two years before returning to Stillwater to own and operate Brown Distributing Company, a wholesale tire company.

Always a salesman, after retirement, Bill sold Advocare Sports Nutritional Supplements to wrestlers, including working with two current nationally ranked Stillwater High School wrestlers.

Bill supported many sports at Stillwater High School and Oklahoma State. He and Navy buddy Lou were originators of the OSU White Jacket Club, now the Cowboy wrestling Club, to raise funds for OSU wrestling. He has a Governor Associate at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and kept the official NCAA record book for the Hall of Fame.

Bill started the Class of '56 reunions and headed up the organizing of the reunions until his last one in 2011. His classmates were very important to him, and he would spend hours tracking them down and convincing them to return to Stillwater for the reunions. At the 50th reunion, he convinced eight class members to attend their "first" reunion.

Bill was tough on the outside but gentle on the inside. In his opinion, right was right and wrong was wrong, and there wasn't much in-between. That was the way it was on the mat.

Presenter

Bob McCracken, Stillwater Class of 1957