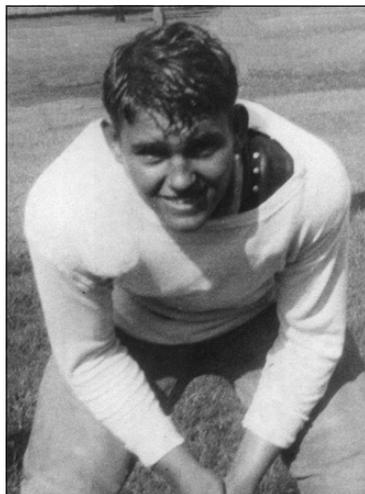




Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



JAMES DOUGLAS "J.D." CHEEK
March 3, 1922 - October 19, 1993
Stillwater High School Class of 1940

10th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony
October 1, 2005

James Douglas "J.D." Cheek was born March 3, 1922, in Akins, Oklahoma. He died October 19, 1993. J.D. graduated from Stillwater High School in 1940, excelling as a tackle on the Pioneer football team. J.D. was named to the all-state team. He was also on the wrestling team and won the regional title for his weight class.

After serving with the 45th Division of the Army during World War II, J.D. attended Oklahoma A&M College where he received his Bachelor of Science degree. J.D. played tackle on the A&M football teams from 1945-48 and in 1946 the team went undefeated and won the Sugar Bowl. He was named All-American as one of the 33 top players in the nation by the American Football Coaches Association and the Saturday Evening Post. One newspaper article stated: "The star of the Tulsa game was big J.D. Cheek, tackle, and one of several Aggies with Indian blood. Cheek, 240-pounder, blocked a Tulsa punt in the early moments of the game and ran 40 yards with it to the Tulsa 3-yard stripe to break open the game. And he followed with 48 minutes of outstanding tackle play. The Aggies nominated no player for All-American honors, although three seniors, Cheek, Spavital, and Meinert were invited to take part in the East-West Shrine game in San Francisco on New Years."

Out of college J.D. was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams. He declined the offer because he was offered the job of City Manager in Cleveland, Oklahoma and the City Manager's job paid a lot more than the professional football contract. Times sure have changed. He also served as City Manager in Ada, Oklahoma. He did graduate work at the University of Oklahoma.

Because of the Keystone Reservoir, he managed the complete relocation of the Town of Mannford, Oklahoma and served on the town's governing board for 6 years after the completion of the relocation. J.D. was also chief administrator in the relocation of Kaw City as part of the Kaw Reservoir project.

He later served 15 years in the University of Oklahoma Continuing Education office in Tulsa, the last eight years as director. He served as Director of Governmental and Professional Relations for the Oklahoma State Nursing Home Association and President of the Oklahoma Educational Foundation for Osteopathic Medicine.

Her served on the Oklahoma Health System Agency and State Health Coordination council and as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Indian Nations Council of Governments.

J.D. was known for his gentle ways and his firm handshake.

Clayton Cheek, his brother, remembers J.D. for his competitive spirit. J.D.'s late coach, Ralph Hamilton, would have remembered that same spirit. This competitive spirit, which over the years has become better known as Pioneer Pride, made J.D. able to stand out among his peers throughout the entire state. Many stories testify to J.D.'s refusal to give up. Those that were around him remember that when he set his mind to winning, he won.

Presenter
Roger Beecham
Stillwater High School, Class of 1960