



## ***Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial***

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### **DUANE "DEWEY" CHILDERS**

May 11, 1960 - June 29, 1979

Stillwater High School Class of 1979

4th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 2, 1999

Duane Childers, who graduated from Stillwater High School in 1979, was an outstanding basketball player for the Pioneers. He was equally outstanding as a person. He was the consummate student-athlete.

His trademark smile and quick wit will forever be remembered by those of us fortunate enough to have known him. One characteristic that stands out above all the rest was Dewey's passion. He had a great passion for playing basketball. He loved playing basketball, so much so that he would climb through a window into the gymnasium at nights and on the weekends to shoot hoops.

His passion was obvious in the way he approached the game. Effort was never a problem for Duane Childers. He was one of the hardest-working, most dedicated Pioneers to put on the uniform. He was the first to arrive at practice, the last to leave. His friends remember riding in his brown Mustang with basketballs rolling around in the back seat. He always wanted to be prepared for an opportunity to shoot hoops.

He was excited and proud to have earned a chance to continue playing basketball on the next level at St. Gregory's Junior College in Shawnee.

He had a great passion for being a Pioneer. He served as Peter Pioneer, the school's mascot, during the football season. He exhibited Pioneer Pride on a daily basis. As one of his friends noted, Dewey loved being in high school. He had the respect and admiration of the seniors as well as the underclassmen.

He was an active participant in school, being involved in the S-Club and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

He was a loyal friend and enjoyed being around his friends, whether it was playing a pick-up basketball game on Saturday mornings, driving around Boomer Lake or just talking. Talking was another area where Dewey excelled.

He had great passion for his family. He and his friends reportedly spent a lot of time hammering on his younger brother, Kevin, but Duane would always be in attendance to watch his younger brother play baseball. He would often jump the fence at Couch Park diamond to watch Kevin play. He took pride in his family.

Dewey had a great passion for life. One of his closest friends said it best. Even though his life was short, Duane didn't waste a minute of it.

Duane Childers taught everyone who came in contact with him a great deal about living. He did this with his infectious smile and his zest for life.

*Presenter  
Ron Holt*