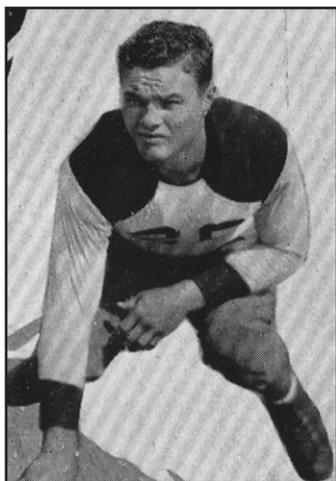


Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



GORDON GLEN "GUS" DuPREE

May 12, 1913 - April 11, 1990

Stillwater High School Class of 1931

5th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 7, 2000

Gordon "Gus" DuPree approached every aspect of his life as he did athletics: with dedication, enthusiasm, perseverance, and humility. Gus grew up on South Perkins Road in Stillwater, and all of his athletic endeavors were for Stillwater schools: grade school, high school, and Oklahoma A&M College. For the Pioneers, he lettered three years in both wrestling and football. He was captain of the football team in 1930 when he played both as a running back and on the line. In wrestling he was All-State in 1930 at 165 pounds and at heavyweight in 1931 (although he never weighed more than 180 pounds). He was captain of the wrestling squad in 1931 when the Pioneers won the state championship. After graduation in 1931, he entered Oklahoma A&M College. Gus lettered in football as a guard in 1932 and halfback in 1933 and 1934. He was named to the All-Missouri Valley Conference Team (honorable mention) in 1932 and was second team all-conference in 1933 and 1934. He lettered three years in wrestling and was an All-American each year. In 1933 and 1934 he wrestled at 175 pounds - finishing third both years at the NCAA Championships. He was out of school with a football related injury in 1935, but came back to wrestle in 1936 at both 165 pounds and heavyweight. Once again, he finished third at the NCAA Championships, this time as a heavyweight.

Following graduation from O.A.M.C. in 1936, Gus became a high school coach in football, wrestling, boxing and track. His wrestling team at Sulphur High School won the state championship in 1937. After seven years of coaching, Gus entered the sporting goods business, first in Oklahoma City and later in Stillwater. During this time he began officiating high school football and wrestling and in 1950 moved up to officiate in what would become the Big 8 conference. During his 20 year tenure as a football and wrestling official in "big time" college sports, Gus gained the reputation for being exceptionally ethical and absolutely neutral in all aspects of officiating. He was so highly regarded for his fairness and knowledge of the rules that both Art Griffith at Oklahoma State University and Port Robertson at the University of Oklahoma insisted he officiate the "bedlam" wrestling matches, which he did for 14 years. Gus served as the head official for the NCAA wrestling tournament from 1963 until 1970. During this time he played a key role in re-writing the NCAA wrestling rules. He also officiated the Blue Bonnet Bowl in 1968 and the Orange Bowl in 1969.

Gordon DuPree was an exceptional athlete and a highly respected official. But more than that, he was a person of the highest moral stature, possessing rare personal and professional ethics. Stillwater High School students would do well to emulate Gus' approach to life: be enthusiastic about every endeavor; treat everyone with fairness and respect; realize that one's integrity is the most valuable asset one possesses; and never forget that duty is the most sublime word in the English language.

Presenter
Bob Hughes