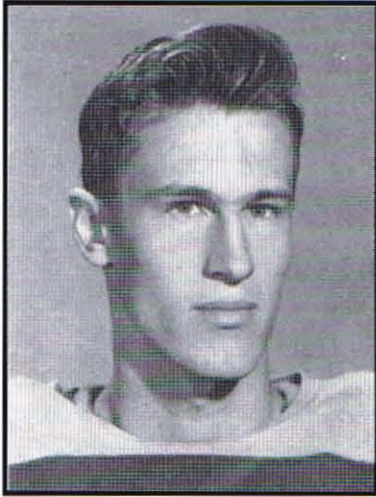


Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



CHARLES EDWIN ESSLINGER

February 29, 1936 - June 17, 1953

Stillwater High School Class of 1954

3rd Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony
October 10, 1998

Charles Edwin Esslinger was born February 29, 1936, in Mason City, Nebraska, the son of the now deceased Charles A. Esslinger and Verna "Monty" Esslinger who currently resides in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Charles' mother and father moved to Stillwater 1947 where his father accepted a position as the assistant football coach at Oklahoma A & M College and "Monty" was highly respected as a Physical Education teacher in the Stillwater Public School System.

Being from very athletic parents, Charles developed very rapidly as a Stellar athlete in football, basketball, baseball and track. Charles was a three year letterman in each of these sports and no doubt would have been one of the greatest athletes ever to represent Stillwater High School. Charles' untimely death left any one who knew him with an indelible mark that we, to this day some forty five years later, still feel.

Charles was preparing for his senior year at "Boys State" when he was stricken by a disease on June 7, 1953, which was diagnosed as Acute Ascending Paralysis (later called Polio). He succumbed to the disease ten days later.

Although Charles' life was of short duration, he is remembered as a gentleman, a leader, a friend and team player.

It was most appropriate and well deserved that the 1954 school year was dedicated in Charles' memory and his presence was greatly missed.