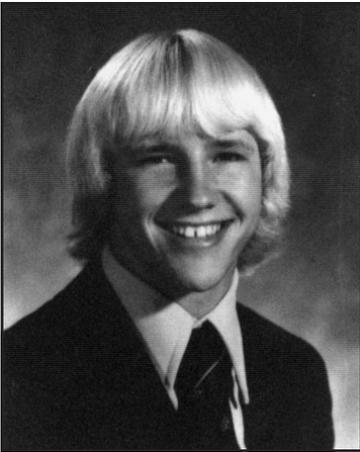




Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



CARL ALLEN FRIE

October 29, 1957 - October 18, 2002

Stillwater High School Class of 1975

8th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 4, 2003

Carl Allen Frie, of Rockwall, Texas died Friday, October 18, 2002. At only 44 years of age, Carl's induction so early into the Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial is not something anyone could have foreseen, but he is exactly the type of person that this organization would honor. There has never been anyone that better exemplified all that is right with high school athletics.

Carl and I were best friends all through high school. In those four years, I watched him develop from the toe headed kid that was so shy that he could not look at you without blushing at the beginning of high school, into one of the most confident, popular, and (as he would tell you) best looking kids in the school when he graduated. This development was not a result of his academic achievement. Carl was always smart. It was football, the relationships he made and the lessons he learned which helped shape the character and confidence that remained with him his entire life. His strong work ethic, his competitive drive, his quick sense of humor, his love of all sports, his love of all people, his love of family were all developed and strengthened because of his athletic experiences as a Stillwater Pioneer.

Carl was never the biggest kid on the team, far from it, but they tell me you did not want to get hit by him because he put every ounce of every pound he had into it and you always remembered who hit you. That was the same way that he lived in every aspect of his entire life. It did not matter whether he was pursuing his degree from Oklahoma State University in Business Management, earning his realtors license, or managing the plant for General Packaging Corporation, he did not stop until the task was accomplished.

When I found out that Carl was ill, I called him. It had been a long time since we had talked to each other. All I wanted to do was hear his voice and see how he was doing. We talked about all the medication that he was taking and how his strength was holding up. While talking on the phone he laughed and said "Oh Bob, this is nothing to worry about. I'll beat this. What I'm worried about is no further than I can hit my driver right now—even my dad will be hitting it past me." In the face of the struggle that would ultimately take his life, he never lost his competitiveness or his sense of humor.

The relationships and memories that are created in high school remain with you for a lifetime. The Class of "75" was rich because of Carl. Classmates gravitated to him. Over the past year we have all thought about him many times. Whether recounting the smile on his face when he made the pass interception his senior year to clinch a victory or simply the countless times he made us laugh, we will always remember him. He is greatly missed.

To the entire Frie family, thank you for this special honor.

Presenter
Bobby Heath
Stillwater High School Class of 1975