



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial

JOE ALLEN FRY, SR.

June 22, 1941 - October 4, 2006

Stillwater High School Class of 1959

15th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 2, 2010

Joe was the second child of Edgar and Ruth Fry. All of their four children: Gordon, Joe, Ruth and Vanita, attended Stillwater schools.

Joe lettered in football every year of his high school career. He was a versatile player and started at three different positions each year, tackle, guard and center. In a game against Cushing his Senior year near the end of the first half, Joe hit a Tiger so hard it knocked out one of Joe's teeth and apparently sustained a concussion. Several days after the game Joe admitted he didn't remember any part of the game after that although he played the entire game.

Joe was also a good wrestler. He was a heavy weight for three years and had a winning record each year, but never made it to the State tournament. Joe's explanation for not going to State was that it was his mother's fault. She didn't want Joe to hurt those other boys because he was bigger than they were. Joe would never admit to being a momma's boy, but felt compelled to follow her advice.

After Joe graduated, he went to Arkansas City Junior College where he played one year of football. During that time he lived in the Arkansas City Fire Station.

In 1961 Joe went to work at the Winfield State Hospital. Joe's responsibility was focused on adult male patients. Joe was a compassionate person. His gentleness and understanding helped people less fortunate than most.

While working at the State Hospital he met a young lady named Marilou who worked in the children's section. Fifteen days later, yes 15 days later they were married. It was love at first sight. No one can guess who had the better wrestling skills, but it had to be the fastest take down ever. They had three children: Joe Allen Jr., Joel and Jovie.

Joe continued to work at the State Hospital, be a father and continued his education in pursuit of a degree in education. He received his degree in 1976 from Southwestern University at Winfield, Kansas. Joe was the definition of determination and commitment. He also found time to help coach his kids' little league sports teams.

Later Joe helped coach his teenage son's football team for a couple of years. That team produced two players that attended Oklahoma State, Joel Fry and Barry Sanders.

After receiving his degree he taught in Girard, Kansas for three years, then took a teaching position at Horace Mann Elementary School in Wichita, Kansas, retiring in 1998.

Joe loved fishing, motorcycling, sky diving and leather crafts. Joe made leather products such as bridles, whips, halters, and other leather products which were sold on the rodeo circuit.

Joe was challenged with health issues such as chronic kidney problems, diabetes and congestive lungs. He never conceded to his pain or adversity nor felt sorry for himself. He was always able to have a good laugh and look at the bright side of life. His philosophy was to deal with what life gives you.

Yes Joe epitomized Pioneer pride with his love for his family, his commitment to his fellow man, and earned the respect of those who knew him.

Presenter
Gordon Fry
Stillwater High School Class of 1954