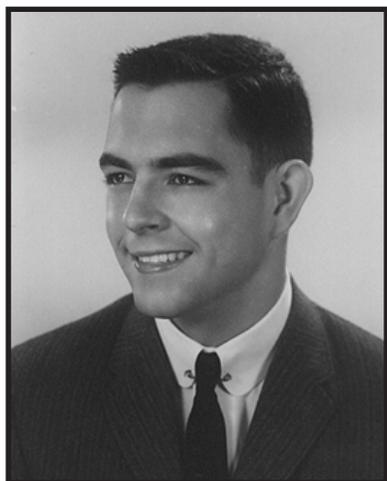


Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



KENNETH TAYLOR GALLAGHER

December 18, 1938 - June 11, 1959

Stillwater High School Class of 1957

2nd Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 11, 1997

Kenneth (Kenny) Taylor Gallagher, outstanding athlete and scholar, devoted son and loyal friend to all who knew him, was born in Stillwater, Oklahoma, on the 18th day of December, 1938, the oldest child of Kenneth T. Gallagher and Mattie Ruth Gallagher, and soon thereafter the family expanded to include sisters Karen and Mary Kay; always a loving and close knit family, always supporting and encouraging the endeavors of each individual member.

Gallagher - a name that is synonymous with the Stillwater community, Oklahoma A&M College and Oklahoma State University. Kenny's grandfather, Ed Gallagher, was the legendary wrestling coach of Oklahoma A&M College, who's teams produced more national collegiate wrestling team titles, more individual national champion wrestling titles, and more Olympic champions than any other coach in the history of collegiate sports. When A&M built it's athletic hall in 1939, of course it was named for it's most famous and respected son - Gallagher Hall; and in later years when the world famous hall was renamed to Gallagher-Iba Arena to honor legendary basketball coach Henry P. Iba, the name Gallagher was assured to be linked with Oklahoma State University athletics for all time.

Kenny's father, Kenneth T. Gallagher, was an outstanding student at Oklahoma A&M during the 1930's and excelled in sports as a champion sprinter and hurdler on the track team. Kenneth has always remained active in sports in the Stillwater community and sponsored all of young Kenny's grade school teams known throughout the community as "The Campus Cleaners".

Is it any wonder that with a family so steeped in the tradition of sports that Kenny would carry on the family tradition. In grade school Kenny excelled in all sports. In Jr. High he lettered three times in football and played on two Stillwater Jr. High state championship basketball teams.

But it was in High School that Kenny's athletic abilities shown the brightest -- he was a four year letterman in track, serving as captain his senior year, and was a member of an Oklahoma state record setting 440 yard relay team. He was a three year letterman in football, earning all conference as a halfback his senior year. Kenny's athletic prowess earned him a full football scholarship to Oklahoma State University upon graduation from high school.

Kenny was an excellent student and maintained an almost perfect 4.0 grade point throughout his undergraduate student career. He was a member of the National and Oklahoma state Honor Societies.

Kenny attended Oklahoma State University for two years aspiring to become a doctor. He was a member of the Oklahoma State University football team, a member of Beta Theta Pi social fraternity and a member of the Dean's Honor Roll.

Kenny met his untimely death on June 11, 1959, in a drowning accident while working at Disney Land in California. To insure that his deeds and accomplishments would inspire those who came after him, an annual scholarship fund in his name has been established at Stillwater High School for outstanding student-athletes. Kenneth Taylor Gallagher - scholar, athlete, friend - he was blessed - he is missed.