



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



DR. GEORGE GATHERS

October 5, 1916 - October 2, 1995

Distinguished Service Award

6th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

September 29, 2001

Dr. George B. Gathers Jr. became the 14th doctor in Stillwater in 1952 and delivered more than 2,500 babies during his years of private practice. He was born October 5, 1916 in Lookeba, Oklahoma and grew up in Caddo County near Hinton. After receiving his medical degree, he kept a private practice in Stillwater from 1952 to 1970, specializing in obstetrics, gynecology, and general surgery. From 1971 through 1987, he was the Assistant Director of the Oklahoma State University Student Health Center as well as the Assistant Team Physician for OSU athletics. Even after retirement, he continued in a part-time capacity until the end of 1990.

It was during the 1960's and 1970's that he was asked to be the "Team Physician" of the Stillwater Pioneers. Since he seldom missed a high school or college football game, he jumped at this opportunity to be a part of it all. He had always cheered and yelled loudly, but now had the opportunity to offer his playing advice while reaching "up" to rub the shoulders of a player. His medical expertise helped many Pioneer players overcome injury and glorify Stillwater High School. To succeed, many competitors had to play with pain because injuries are a part of any sport. Doc Gathers taught athletes the difference between pain and injury. He was the man who kept the Pioneers on the playing field. His care and comfort not only was the difference between playing or not playing, it was quite often, the difference between winning and losing. Even though Doc Gathers never attended Stillwater High School or wore the bronze and blue, he was a true Pioneer.

Dr. Gathers was blessed with two daughters, Georgianna and Jennifer. To them he was loving, funny, intelligent, a mentor, supportive and always ready to join any event he could. Georgianna and Jennifer were not athletic, but to their father's delight they gave him two grandsons, Ben and Patrick, who were. Doc made countless trips to Kansas City to see them play everything from kindergarten soccer to high school playoffs. Just try talking to him during a game! Everything had to wait for halftime or after the game, unless an injury occurred to anyone during the game. (Once a team doctor-always a team doctor.) Win or lose, he was so proud of their endeavors. He made his grandsons feel they were all that he imagined.

Dr. Gathers is missed by all of us every day. And if there is a game to play, coach, or watch, we know he is there.

Presenter
Dr. Don Cooper