



# *Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial*

---



## DANA LEA HAM

August 23, 1969 - November 19, 1992

Stillwater High School Class of 1987

17th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 13, 2012

Dana Lea Ham was born in Stillwater on August 23, 1969. She attended Westwood Elementary School and completed her high school education in Stillwater Public Schools. She graduated from Stillwater High in 1987.

Dana was an avid sports lover and an athlete that never gave up. She always gave her all on the court or on the field. She began her sports career when she was 8 years old playing softball with Stillwater Parks and Recreation until Stillwater began its own fast pitch softball team when she was around 14.

Her high school athletic career was very important to her and she played basketball and fast pitch softball for SHS. On the court she played both ways, guard and forward (back in the day of 6 on 6), but spent most of her time on the defensive end. Dana hated when our teams were not winning, which sadly was much more than we would have liked. She was an excellent softball player where she pitched, played 2nd base and caught. She contributed to her teams by being an excellent team player. Her teammates described her as scrappy and a motivator because of her attitude to fight and desire to win. Her senior year she was named all-state in softball. After high school, she continued her softball career on a scholarship in Miami, Oklahoma at Northeastern State College for one year. She graduated with an associate's degree.

Dana had a great smile and a fabulous sense of humor. She was a prankster and joker. She always looked for the humor in the situation. Once when Dana hit a friend in the face with a ball, and her nose was bleeding, she looked up and said, "Did I do that?" Turns out her nose was broken. Friends of Dana's never experienced a dull moment in her presence. She had a beautiful spirit that she shared with all those around her. She loved life and loved to laugh. And, if she got you with a joke or prank, her laughter swallowed the entire room. It was infectious. Outside the athletic realm she liked spending time with her family and friends, riding motorcycles, and enjoying the outdoors. She loved animals and worked with horses on her farm. In high school she was a member of DECA club.

Later, she went to work on Arabian horse ranches in Miami, Oklahoma to Guthrie to Cedarhill, Texas where she was caring for animals that were taken to shows.

Dana passed from this life on November 19, 1992. Dana was preceded in death by her dad, Neil, who passed away on July 8, 1989. She is survived by her mom, Billie of Stillwater, her two sisters, Mesa of Tulsa, and Toni of Perry. Dana had perseverance and a spirit that I would love to emulate in my life. Her smile and fabulous personality are truly missed.

A year after Dana's dad passed away, she sent a card to her mom. I'm going to share the words from the card because those were words she picked especially to comfort her mom so I know she would all want us to hear her thoughts about hard times. The card read,

"There is always the hope of tomorrow,  
To brighten the clouds of today...  
There is always a corner for turning,  
No matter how weary the way...  
So just look ahead to tomorrow  
And trust that you'll find waiting there,  
The sunlight that seemed to be hidden  
By yesterday's clouds of despair."

-Helen Steiner Rice

Romans 8:38-39: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Presenter

Dana Brown, Stillwater High School Class of 1986