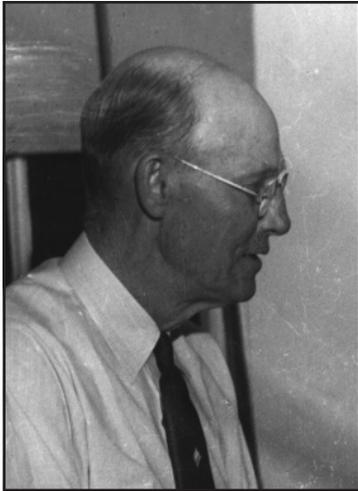




## *Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial*

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### RALPH A. HAMILTON

February 14, 1893 - August 15, 1963

Distinguished Service Award

8th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 4, 2003

Ralph A. Hamilton was the first football coach at Stillwater High School. Coach Hamilton started coaching Stillwater High School football in 1919. Stillwater High School had football teams as early as 1911 without a coach and records show they did pretty well.

Ralph Hamilton became coach at Stillwater after returning from World War I (he served with the "District of Columbia Band CPL.HQ.Co. 343 Field Artillery") and his journey through

26 years of coaching football, basketball & baseball at Stillwater High School began.

Coach Hamilton coached Stillwater High School the following years; 1919 thru 1921, 1927 thru the year of 1949 season and continued teaching until retiring in 1958.

Coach Hamilton (as a song says) did it his way. I am quite sure anyone who played any sport for him will always remember him. He always got your attention and kept your attention. I have made the remark often that Coach Hamilton must have taught Vince Lombardi and Bear Bryant all they knew. He was from that character mold.

Coach Hamilton, on occasion, did show that he had a heart and you would realize that he was not trying to kill us. Like the time we played at Blackwell, OK (a Friday night game) one of our players received an injury in the game and was hospitalized in Blackwell. He had to undergo surgery for the injury. I was required to return to Stillwater that night with the team, but early the following morning I used my parent's car and returned to the Blackwell Hospital and by the player's hospital bed was Coach Hamilton, he had spent the night there.

Coach Hamilton was also known to put money in the hands of one of his young assistant coaches that had not received his first paycheck in time to pay his bills.

Through those 26 years of coaching, Ralph Hamilton established a record of 124 wins, 95 loses, 17 ties with a .566 percent over all record. His teams through all those years totals outscored their opponents.

Coach Hamilton is respected by all who played for him or against him and the Stillwater High School Football Field is "Hamilton Field" to properly honor him for all the years of coaching.

There are special memories for those of us who played the first game played on "Hamilton Field". (Seems like yesterday)

Coach Ralph Hamilton passed away, but he will always be remembered by many of us who were fortunate enough to be part of his history.

Presenter  
Harvey E. Thurman  
Stillwater High School, Class of 1950