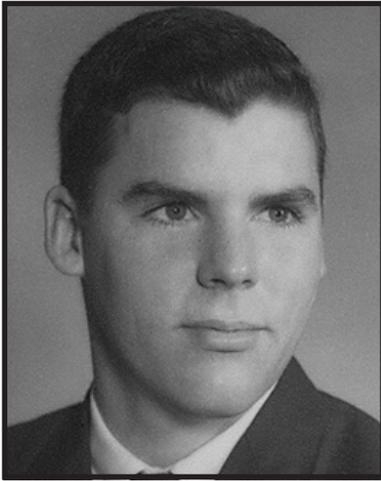


Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



JAMES PATRICK HARAUGHTY
February 4, 1946 - February 17, 1965
Stillwater High School Class of 1964
2nd Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony
October 11, 1997

Pat Haraughty never played a down of football, or a quarter of basketball, and never ran a step on the track, but during his years at Stillwater High School he was well known as one of the most courageous of athletes. Why?

When Pat was in junior high school it was discovered that he had cancer. One leg was removed in order to stop the disease but unfortunately, it had progressed to other parts of his body and he died just a few days after his nineteenth birthday. During his entire high school experience this horrible disease was consuming him, killing him slowly. But only those closest to him had any inkling of the dreadful things he was going through.

Pat was the trainer on our football team at Stillwater High School. He worked hard at it anticipating the needs of the athletes before they went on the field and as they came off. The week he went into the hospital to have his leg removed, Stillwater had an important game to play. As the team huddled around Coach Harris, one of the captains said, "This one's for Pat!" and they played like men possessed. They were inspired by the courage and mental toughness of their friend and trainer, Pat Haraughty.

When we think about the words "Hall of Fame" and their meaning, we can apply them to Pat's experience. Hall: an narrow corridor, like the halls of Stillwater High School the day Pat returned to school with his artificial leg. Everyone in the hall stepped aside and began to applaud. People came from all the rooms and also began to applaud the courage of this happy go lucky, smiling guy with one leg missing.

Fame: public estimation, popular acclaim, renown. Pat wasn't famous for his athletic performance but in the public estimation of all who knew him he was famous for his incredibly positive attitude and his incredibly corny sense of humor. He laughed at adversity. During Halloween the year he lost his leg, he stood in the doorway of his house and took his leg off when the trick or treaters approached scaring them half to death, much to the amusement of his friends hiding inside. He was an avid water skier before his leg was removed and afterwards too. He gave a whole new meaning to the word "slalom" skiing. He was extremely intelligent, waltzing through the toughest science and math classes at Stillwater High pursuing his dream of becoming a surgeon. He took the time to encourage those around him who were struggling academically and helped them achieve the best they could be.

His sister wrote that he "made the best he could of a bad situation". For those who knew him well, even though he lived a short 19 years, he has served as an inspiration of a lifetime. He not only made the best of a bad situation; he completely ignored the bad situation and swept us all up in his indomitable courage and relentless optimism.

During his senior year the Pioneers played 14 games, going all the way to the State finals. No one on that team will ever forget the sight of Pat with that can of "tough-skin" waiting for them on the sidelines, walking with that uneven gait, encouraging them to do their best.