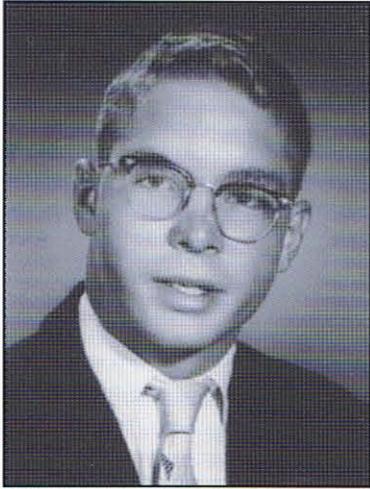




## ***Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial***

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**WILLIAM (BILL) ARTHUR HENDERSON**

May 17, 1942 - September 8, 2001

Stillwater High School Class of 1960

7th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 12, 2002

In 1959, Stillwater High School's football team had a perfect 10-0 regular season losing only in the first round of the playoffs. They were the first undefeated team with an untied season in twenty years. Bill Henderson was one of the Pioneers on that team.

Bill was a true Pioneer, with that "fight til you drop" attitude. He was extremely quick and one of the brightest players on the field. He was the first football player in Stillwater history to be used for running in the plays from the sideline. He also was an outstanding pulling guard being named to the All-Conference squad along with eight other teammates and he was an asset to his team on the offensive side of the ball. Bill was a team leader and a team player. He was also a member of the Stillwater wrestling team.

When Bill was in high school, he was allowed to go to football practice after his chores were done on the farm. He walked two miles to football practice and two miles home. He loved to play and since hard work was the norm for him, two-a-day practices were like playing to Bill. He continued this great work ethic after high school football graduating from Oklahoma State University with a degree in Agriculture.

My friendship with Bill began in the 1970's and I can attest to his intelligence and toughness. His farm and ranch work was a perfect lead in to his hobbies of hunting and fishing. Being a part of these hobbies with him helped me realize he was a team player especially since he usually put me in the best position to be successful. Bill also had an ornery side to him. For example, it seemed that I ended up carrying all the game at the end of the day plus he would always have to make a phone call while I cleaned all the game. He loved to display his cooking abilities without a cookbook, so we held several wild game feeds for our friends and the OSU Athletic Department with Bill's knowledge of cooking.

Bill Henderson was a good husband, father and grandfather. He took his son, Larry, everywhere with him until he started school. He didn't miss an event while Larry was in school. Then when Larry had a son, Bill mounted an infant seat in the tractor and took his grandson, Jacob, to the field with him. They spent important hours together. Bill was loyal to his family and friends. He was always willing to help others and he did just that. He talked with a great deal of fondness for his coach and fellow players. He was a true Pioneer.

To the Henderson Family, thank you for this honor.

*Presenter  
Tom Chesbro  
Stillwater High School, Class of 1957*