



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



CHARLES W. HETRICK, SR.

“COACH HETRICK”

MARCH 14, 1921- NOVEMBER 27, 2014

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

20th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

September, 26 2015

Charles W. Hetrick, Sr. was born in Versailles, Illinois, moving to Blackwell, Oklahoma in 1928 at the age of seven with his mother and four sisters after the death of his father and brother. At that time, he was not keen on attending school and often was on the front porch by the time his mother returned home from

taking him to school. He eventually found great interest in sports, however, and excelled in wrestling, football and track, graduating in 1941 from high school and lettering four years in wrestling and three years in football and track. As a senior, he was co-captain of the wrestling team and state champion. It was the first year that Blackwell High School had won a state wrestling championship. Chuck was elected to Boys State and was the first Maroon Spirit at Blackwell High School, for which he was most proud. The characteristics of a Maroon Spirit were “the best of the best” demonstrating high moral standards, honor, fair play, leadership, strength, and loyalty.

He attended Oklahoma A&M College in 1941 on a wrestling scholarship but that was interrupted by the start of World War II. He joined the Marines in 1942, serving in the Pacific Theater of War and was honorably discharged in 1946. Upon returning to the US, he married Dorothy Mae Krier in 1944, and in 1946 enrolled at Southwestern Tech in Weatherford, OK. After one year, he returned to Oklahoma A&M on a wrestling scholarship. In 1949, he was the NCAA Wrestling Champion at 128 pounds and was chosen the Outstanding Wrestler of the Tournament. He received his BS degree in 1950 with a double major in industrial arts and physical education. He earned his MS degree in 1964.

His first job was at Salina, Kansas, 1950-54, where he taught physical education, industrial arts and coached wrestling for four years. He returned to Blackwell in 1955-58 where he coached three state championship teams. Stillwater was next on his list where he taught industrial arts and coached wrestling for eight years, from 1958 to 1966, coaching several outstanding wrestlers who went on to wrestle at Oklahoma State University. He coached in Bartlesville, OK from 1966-68, developing the wrestling program for the new Sooner High School. His final step for coaching was back to Blackwell in 1968, winning another state wrestling tournament, until his retirement in 1983. He and Dorothy decided to make Stillwater their retirement home in 2004 where they enjoyed attending the OSU wrestling matches and getting reacquainted with old friends.

Chuck believed that wrestling teaches a young person to work hard, make sacrifices and learn to give and take. Fifteen of Chuck's former wrestlers have become wrestling coaches and twenty-five went to college on scholarships. He coached 26 high school champions and 21 runners-up. Four went on to become NCAA Champions and ten were Big Eight Champions.

During his coaching career, he was elected President of the Oklahoma Wrestling Association, twice in 1958 and 1968. He was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame with the Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award, received the Gallagher Award in 2005; was twice elected Oklahoma High School Hall of Fame; and received the Blackwell Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen Award, the 2002 Blackwell High School Hall of Fame Award and the NCAA Coaches 25 Years of Service Award. He also served as President of the Former OSU Wrestler Club.

Chuck was a proud Marine who enjoyed making flag poles to display the American and Marine flags, farming and woodworking, sharing his creations with friends and family. Chuck and his wife, Dorothy, have four children, Vicki, Chuck, Grady and Clinton, as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Presenter

Jay Arneson, Stillwater High School Class of 1968