



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



KENDALL DALE KING

October 3, 1937 - December 6, 1991

Stillwater High School Class of 1955

3rd Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 10, 1998

Kendall Dale King was born in Stillwater, Oklahoma on October 3, 1937, and at an early age acquired great respect for the value of athletics in attaining success in life - Believing that "Life is a team sport and everyone who contributes will reap the reward of the win."

Kendall was always the ultimate team player in every aspect of his life. He loved sports and most particularly he loved football. In grade school he participated in "backyard" football with his friends and helped his father in the hardware store. His organized team football began in the 7th grade and continued through his senior year of high school. Not being blessed with an abundance of natural talent, Kendall was always the first on the practice field and the last one to leave. Dedication and self-sacrifice were a way of life to him which he practiced daily, and these qualities earned him three (3) letters in football at Stillwater High School. He loved and respected all who participated in any athletic endeavor, and gave countless hours to others to help them improve their athletic abilities. Throughout his entire life he never forgot his team mates, and his fondest memories always centered around "the guys I played ball with", and he was proud to be a Pioneer.

Kendall loved Stillwater, Oklahoma. After graduating from Stillwater High School, he attended Oklahoma State University and graduated from Central State University. He chose to return to Stillwater to go in business with his father and raise his family. Ever willing to contribute and always the ultimate team player, the community could always depend on Kendall. He served as a director and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Presbyterian Church; was very active in civic organizations; served as a director and Chairman of the Board of the Stillwater Industrial Foundation; served as a trustee on the Stillwater Medical Board; served as a director and Chairman of the Board of Stillwater Retail Commission; was a member of Sigma Nu social fraternity; and served as a city commissioner and Vice Mayor of Stillwater. His team dedication and hard work were instrumental in securing a new hospital and an unlimited supply of fresh water for his community.

Kendall expanded his business from a small auto parts store to a nationally recognized hardware facility under the umbrella of Ace Hardware Corporation. His outstanding accomplishment was rewarded by his election as a national director of Ace in 1984 where he served until he was elected to serve as Chairman of the Board in 1990.

Kendall's love and dedication to his friends, community and business came second only to his family. Family always came first and he was justly proud of his parents, his wife, five children and grandchildren, all of whom he adored. He instilled the same principles and values of dedication and teamwork in each member of his family, principles and values which had been learned on the field as a contributing member of the team.

Kendall Dale King - Proud Pioneer, great team player, devoted family man, spiritual man, community leader, and a man who attained the pinnacle of his trade - most particularly he was the greatest friend anyone could have. Not bad for a kid raised in Stillwater, Oklahoma who's only goal in life was his willingness to contribute to the team to insure that he "reaped the reward of the win".