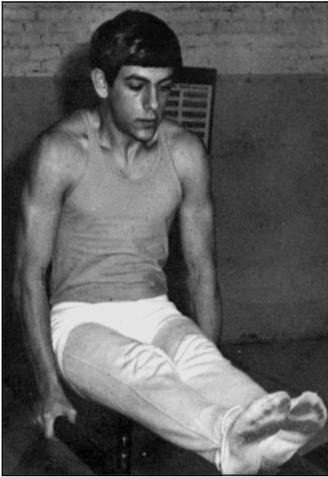




Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



EARL TOUSLEY LEWIS

November 13, 1950 - September 24, 1985

Stillwater High School Class of 1969

9th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

September 25, 2004

Tousley Lewis was a unique individual, to say the least. He was always ready to embrace new concepts and ideas and yet maintain a respect for tradition. He possessed a charisma that made him stand out from the crowd and, whether you were familiar with him or not, you always knew he was there and who he was. He wasn't large in stature, but you would be quite challenged to find anyone with a larger heart. He had a sincere love for people, and he could always make you laugh.

Tousley was not a "super athlete", but he possessed the natural talents and ability to excel at whatever he chose and he was not one to choose the traditional course. His size and preferences led him to the less common sports for a high school student of the day. He played, and lettered, on the C. E. Donart Golf Team in his sophomore year and was initiated into the Stillwater "S" Club that summer. Tousley never volunteered or spoke of his indoctrination into that organization. His membership was extremely important to him and he would never violate the sanctity of the club. He wore his "Letter" with Pioneer Pride and probably took a little grief about it being issued to a "golfer", but he knew the comments were good natured and continued on the golf team through his junior and senior years. A new sport emerged at C. E. Donart, in our senior year, and Tousley jumped into it with his usual energy and enthusiasm. Gymnastics, again not your run of the mill sport for that time, became one of his main points of focus. He trained and competed with dedication and drive, which culminated in a Pioneer Spirit and leadership that helped to establish a fledgling sport and contributed to a high overall ranking for the school's team.

Tousley's Pioneer Spirit wasn't confined only to athletics. He utilized his charisma, style, personality, energy and enthusiasm in all things at C. E. Donart. While Tousley was more of an average student, from an academic standpoint, he was quite intelligent and test scores reflected it. He loved high school life and would influence and encourage those around him to participate, contribute and stand proud for our school. With each year, Tousley became more engaged in extracurricular organizations and activities, displaying leadership qualities culminating in his Senior Year participation in "S" Club, Thespians, Senior Class President, Secretary of Hi-Y, National Forensic League, Youth and Government, and the Pioneer Annual Staff.

After graduation, Tousley attended classes at OSU and worked for various merchants, locally. He began a career in marketing and sales with Faucet Paperback Book Publications and lived in various other states. After some "life events", Tousley returned to Oklahoma and attended Central State University in Edmond. He graduated in 1982 with a Business Administration degree and began a career in marketing and sales with the Coca Cola Bottling Company, in Oklahoma City. His life had come full circle and he was re-establishing connections to a fulfilled life and renewed friendships with his fellow Pioneers.

I know that all of us were proud to have known Tousley and miss him, terribly. Our memories are intertwined and linked to our experiences with him and the Pioneer Spirit that he exemplified . . . and of course, the way he made us laugh.

His first wife Trudy, their son Benjamin, and his second wife Linda survive Tousley.

Presenter
Jim Wells
Stillwater High School Class of 1969