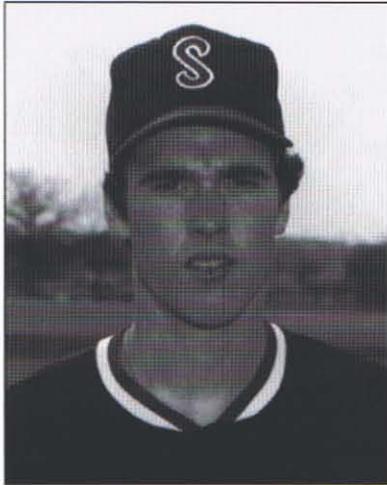


Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



RANDY MATTOX

December 19, 1959 - June 9, 1980
Stillwater High School Class of 1978

4th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony
October 2, 1999

Randy was born in Cherokee, Oklahoma, on December 19, 1959. He wasn't quite three years old when his parents, Dale and Autumn Mattox, moved to Stillwater. By the time he was eight, he had decided to become a baseball pitcher. He played all sports until Junior High School when he decided to concentrate on baseball. He played for the high school team

during the school years and the American Legion team in the summers. As a Pioneer, Randy was a member of "S" Club and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

While wearing the Pioneer Bronze and Blue, Randy gave up playing in the infield and worked hard on his ERA. His combined ERA for 1977-1978 was 2.18. He ended his senior season with a 6-1 record and had the best ERA at 1.83 with 67 strike-outs.

Earl Boyer, Randy's junior high and high school coach, used the word "privileged" when describing his relationship with Randy. He described Randy as very unselfish, very courageous, hard working and always willing to do whatever it took to succeed. Earl said he was proud to call Randy his friend, and knew Randy was proud to be a Pioneer.

Randy could be ornery, but that was part of his charm. His teachers and pastor, Charlie Baker, remembered his loving spirit. He was willing to give and willing to take second place if it would help someone else. When complimented, Randy would get that boyish grin, turn red, duck his head, and tap his toe. He stated, "If there is anything good about my life, anything worthwhile in my life, it's because of my family, my friends, and my God. They have made everything worthwhile".

Randy was given a scholarship to play baseball for Lloyd Simmons at Seminole Junior College in the fall of 1978. The following April, Randy was diagnosed with leukemia, but was able to continue playing baseball in the fall of 1979. In February 1980, he underwent a bone marrow transplant in Seattle. For three months, Randy fought gallantly, encouraging his family and those around him. He never felt sorry for himself. When he was barely able to keep going, he still insisted on opening the doors for the female nurses. His courtesy and kind acts touched all those around him. Randy died in Seattle on June 9, 1980.

Coach Lloyd Simmons was a great influence on Randy and Randy's family will be forever grateful to him. At Randy's memorial service, Coach Simmons said the young man who had worn number 15 was the backbone of the Seminole team. Randy was an inspiration to the team with his great desire to compete which led them to dedicate the last two seasons to Randy. The night before leaving for the Junior College World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado, the team gathered for a meal and to remember Randy. Each member expressed his feelings about the young pitcher who lived as hard as he pitched. All agreed that Randy had been a competitor all of his life, and they wanted to follow his example.

Randy visited with Coach Simmons by phone a day or two before Randy died. Coach Simmons was starting to tire of coaching, but Randy told him what a marvelous school Seminole Junior College is and made him promise to continue coaching. Randy told him that it had been a privilege to know him. It has been 19 years now since Randy left us. Coach Simmons is in his 25th year of coaching and is still at Seminole Junior College. The baseball team still wears number 15 on their sleeves.

Every day students at Seminole Junior College pass a small alcove in the gym dedicated to Randy. It contains his bat, glove, uniform, shoes, hat and picture. The bronze tribute reads, "Randy Mattox lived to compete and competed to live". Those simple words touch the indomitable spirit that was Randy and are the reason Randy deserves induction to the Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial.

Presenter
Alan Parker