



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



TOMMY MARION NICHOLSON

October 20, 1933 - January 20, 1964

Stillwater High School Class of 1952

2nd Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 11, 1997

Tommy Marion Nicholson was born on October 20, 1933, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, to Bonnie and Lelah Nicholson. He died January 20, 1964.

His educational experiences included elementary, Junior High, and High School in the Stillwater School system. He enrolled at Oklahoma A&M College after high school and played freshman football in the fall of 1952. In college, he majored in chemical engineering. Tommy served in the United States Army and was sent to Germany for Post War Occupation. He then returned to college and completed his chemical engineering degree.

Tommy was married to Sally Emmons and they had two sons, Jim and Steve, who also graduated from Stillwater High School and played for the Pioneers.

The Pioneers of the Class of 1952 were born in the Depression Years. They survived World War II and in 1948 were looking for another endeavor to keep from getting bored. That is when they became Toy Pioneers and later Pioneers.

We are they.

We wanted to make a statement about ourselves, and we felt that playing on the football field was the way to do it. The statement we wanted to make is best exemplified by Teddy Roosevelt's statement issued many years ago when he said, "It is not the critic who counts -- it's not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled -- credit belongs to the man who really was in the area, his face marred by dust, sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs to come short and short again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming. It is the man who actually strives to do the deeds, who knows the great enthusiasm and knows the great devotion, who spends himself on a worthy cause, great achievement, and who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and cruel souls who know neither victory nor defeat".

We are one.

Tommy was one. He gave his all to be one of the eleven. He was the one to open holes for the running backs. He was the one who plugged the holes on defense. He was the quiet one. He was special.