



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



LOYD RICKS

April 22, 1914 - June 6, 1990

Stillwater High School Class of 1933

18th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony
September 28, 2013

Loyd Ricks was the son of Isaac and Elizabeth Ricks; he was born in Yale, Oklahoma on April 22, 1914 and died June 6, 1990 at the age of 76. Loyd lost his father at the age of 7. He attended school in Quay and Yale and when he was about 10 years old the family moved to Stillwater.

Loyd showed outstanding athletic abilities early. In Jr. High School he ran track, played football and won several wrestling tournaments.

In high school, Loyd was elected all Northern Conference for football two successive years. His senior year in football, Loyd was captain of the team and was chosen to the All-State Football Team as fullback. In 1932 Tulsa Sports Editor, B.A. Bridgewater rated Loyd as the "Best Fullback in the State of Oklahoma".

During his High School wrestling, Loyd won three State Individual Championships and was undefeated in all tournaments. He lead Stillwater to three State Team Championships. In 1931, he was State Champion at 165 lbs. and scored more points than any other wrestler in Oklahoma. In 1932, Loyd was Captain and State Champion at 175 lbs. and was the only high school student entered in Olympic Team tryouts held in New York City, where he finished 4th. Loyd was team Captain in 1933 and won the championship in the heavyweight category. He graduated in 1933.

Loyd went on to then A&M College (OSU, where he played football and wrestled for the famed Ed Gallagher. He won three National Individual Wrestling Championships at 177 lbs., 191 lbs. and Heavyweight and three National Team Championships.

Loyd left college early in 1937 to become a member of the first organized Oklahoma State Highway Patrol, where he reached the level of Lieutenant before leaving, due to a serious accident. Loyd then returned to A&M to finish his degree in agriculture.

Loyd entered in the U.S. Navy in WWII and spent time at Rice University as an instructor.

He returned from the service where he owned and operated several businesses. Later devoting full time ranching east of Stillwater.

Loyd is survived by his wife Eva, son Bruce, daughter Kay, two grandchildren Jeff, Dana and four great-grandchildren, Emily, Nathan, Luke and Claire.

Presenter

Kendall Grindstaff, Stillwater High School Class of 1946