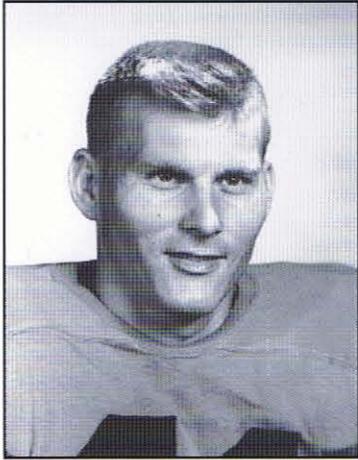




# ***Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial***

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## **LEE LAWRENCE SNIDER**

October 20, 1931 - February 9, 2001

Stillwater High School Class of 1949

7th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 12, 2002

Lee was born in Stillwater, OK, in 1931, to William and Jewell Snider. He grew up in the area and graduated from Stillwater High School in 1949. During his high school days he was a letterman and standout athlete in basketball, baseball and football. He was offered a scholarship to play football for Eastern A&M College in Wilburton, OK, where he was the starting end and defensive half-back. He was named an Honorable Mention All-American in 1949 and named to the Junior College All-American team in 1950.

In 1951-1954, Lee left school to serve his country in the Korean Conflict. He served for three years with the U.S. Air Force. Lee returned to his hometown in 1954 to play for the Oklahoma A&M Aggies as left end. His career was cut short in 1954 when he sustained a concussion during one of the games. He retained his scholarship and served as one of the student assistant coaches for the 1955 freshmen team, thus beginning his love affair with coaching. He went on to receive his BS Degree in Education in 1956 and his MS in 1958.

Lee married Dorothy "Dottie" Tyler of Austin, TX, on March 13, 1954. They had two sons, Gary Mark, born in March of 1956, who followed in his father's footsteps and played football at OSU and later became a football coach and Gregory Len was born in April of 1959. Greg later died of injuries sustained in an automobile accident at the age of 23. Lee had 3 grandsons and 1 granddaughter. Beau Michael, age 21, attends OSU as a Broadcast Journalist major, Zachary Mark, 17 is a high school junior and plays football for the Union Redskins, and Lucas Matthew, 11, was Lee's little look-alike and sidekick. Katrenea Lee, 24, lives in Joplin, Missouri with her 2 year old son, Dilyn.

Lee's coaching career spanned over twenty-seven years, which began at the high school level as an assistant coach in 1956 in Durant, OK. He was the head coach for eleven years in Bixby, OK, from 1958-1969 and again in 1979-1984 where he also served as athletic director. He was head coach for the Broken Arrow Tigers and Tulsa Nathan Hale Rangers. During this time, his teams won ten conference championships, six district titles, four area titles, three regional titles and were three time state champion runner-up. In 1969, he had the distinction of breaking the state's attendance record when 38,000 fans packed Skelly Stadium to watch Tulsa Hale play Booker T. Washington. As a high school head coach, his record stands at 103 wins, 43 losses, and 6 ties.

Lee moved to the college ranks in 1969, when he was asked to coach the freshman team for Oklahoma State University. He later was promoted to offensive coordinator where his team was invited to play in the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, AZ, in December of 1974. Lee was head coach for Northeastern A&M Junior College in Miami, OK, for one year where he coached the Golden Norsemen in the Junior College Bowl in Garland, TX.

Lee coached on the professional level when he became the offensive coordinator for the Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Canadian Football League where he took his team to the Grey Cup in Toronto in November of 1976.

Lee was the recipient of many certificates of Honor, Recognition and Awards. In 1965, he was selected as the North head coach for the Oklahoma All-State Prep Game and was also named "State Coach of the Year". In 1969, he was named the "Tulsa Seven Conference Coach of the Year", and in 1980, he was selected as the "Prep Coach of the Week". In 1982, Lee was asked to be the offensive coordinator for the Oklahoma squad in the 45th annual Oil Bowl in Wichita Falls, Texas. In 1985, he was named a Suburban All-Star Coach for the Greater Tulsa Shrine Bowl.

One of Lee's proudest moments was in 1985, when the Bixby Football Booster Club began the "Lee Snider Gridiron Award" to be given annually to an outstanding senior football player for his athletic ability, academic achievement, and good citizenship. Another proud moment was in July of 1998, when Lee was inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame. On January 8, 2001, a Certificate of Honor and Recognition was bestowed upon Lee where as the Bixby Board of Education officially named the Bixby Public School's football field the "Lee Snider Football Field", in recognition of his many years of service and dedication to the athletic programs of Bixby Public Schools.

Lee was known for his exciting offenses and dominating defenses. He was a coach who motivated his players through positive praise and encouragement. He took the time to get to know each one of his players on a personal level. He touched many lives along the way and inspired them to be more than they believed they could be. The late Bill Connors, sports writer for the Tulsa World, wrote, "Lee made no excuses when his team lost and accepted no glory when his team won".

Presenter

J. D. Bilyeu

Stillwater High School, Class of 1949