



Stillwater Pioneer Athlete Memorial



ROBERT HOWARD WHITE

January 29, 1928 - September 18, 1983

Stillwater High School Class of 1946

5th Annual Memorial Induction Ceremony

October 7, 2000

Bob was born January 29, 1928 in Chicago, Illinois. He had a brother and two sisters. At a young age Bob's family moved to Stillwater where he attended school from 1st grade through high school. He played both basketball and football, lettering three years as tight end in football. His jersey number was always 20. Bob and I went all the way through school together. We played football together - I played quarterback and he was the tight end. When I would throw a pass to him he would always somehow manage to catch it.

Bob was a multi-talented individual, not only was he a good athlete but he also played the coronet in the high school band. He also played in a trumpet trio with David Heid and Keith Cottongim.

While going to school Bob worked at Ingham Lumber Company. He also helped me get a job at Ingham's and that is where I learned how to sell paint, which I have been doing ever since. Bob graduated from high school in 1946. He attended Oklahoma A&M College and graduated in 1954.

Bob and I double dated a lot, he had a blue '35 Ford convertible with a rumble seat, guess where I got to ride. He would let me borrow his Ford sometimes so I could go see my girl friend, and looking back on it now, I think the main reason he was so generous was I always filled it with gas and tightened the breaks.

Bob was the best man at my wedding. It was a hot August day and there was very little air conditioning, and as the wedding went on, the candles started to bend. Bob would reach over and straighten them up.

Bob married Suzanne Richardson in 1949. They had five children Cheri, Dan, Jeff, Carolyn and Gary Don. Gary Don died in 1965. Dan and Jeff both played football at Stillwater High School while Bob was the head coach for the Pioneers.

Bob's career as a teacher and coach spanned 24 years. He coached at Arkansas City College for 2 years, was at Hobart for 5 years, two years as head coach, then went to Clovis, New Mexico for nine years before returning to Stillwater, where he was the head football coach for three years. He also coached the golf team.

After leaving Stillwater, he went to Colorado where he pursued his interest in cabinet making.

Throughout Bob's life we always stayed close friends. The relationship we had, the relationship he had with his players, and the relationship he had as a father and husband, all were greatly impacted by his participation in athletics. Bob was truly proud to be a Pioneer.

Presenter
Chuck Ketch
Stillwater High School, Class of 1946