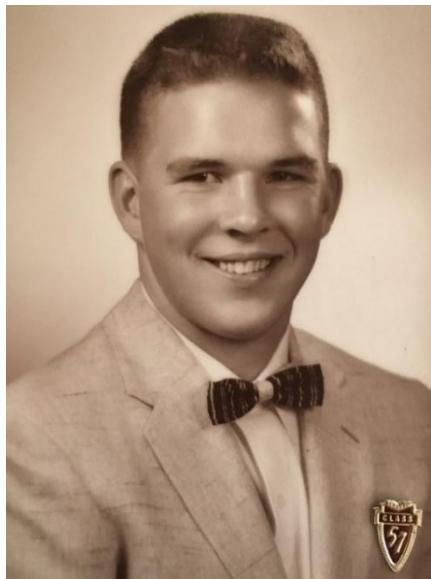


WILLIS WINKLE



Willis Winkle (SHS Class of 1957) epitomized the model student-athlete, excelling in both the classroom and on the field. Willis was valedictorian of the SHS class of 1957 while also earning an astonishing 15 athletic letters. On the football field, Willis was a quarterback and halfback on the fall 1956 team that had only one loss – to Culver, the team that ended up winning state championship game. He was named to the Central Oregon All-Star team for football. On the basketball court, Willis was a guard on the 1957 team that won the district title and finished fourth at state with an overall record of 23-2. On the track, Willis crossed the spectrum of speed, distance, and strength. He excelled in the 220, 440, 880, shot put, discus, and on the 4 x 220 relay team. At the district meet in 1957 he finished first in the 220, shot put, and on the 4 x 220 relay team (which also finished 3rd at the state meet), while also finishing second in the discus. However, his most notable performances were on the baseball field. He regularly led the league in batting, and led the team to a second-place finish in the 1956 state tournament. He was generally considered one of the top pitchers of his era in Central Oregon, while also playing first, third, and shortstop. During August 1957, Willis signed a baseball contract with the St. Louis Cardinals system, eventually playing in the Pioneer League. Willis eventually left baseball and pursued a career in banking, finance and insurance with, among others, First National Bank and Les Schwab. Outstanding student, athlete, professional, and businessman – Willis did it all.



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