



Ponca City Public Schools Honors Phil Turney

The Ponca City Public School District honored Phil Turney before Friday's football game with Booker T. Washington at Sullins Stadium. Phil was the "Voice of the Wildcats" broadcasting Po-Hi football, basketball and games of other sports over Radio Station WBBZ from 1980 until 2015.

The new home radio booth in the new press box at Sullins Stadium was dedicated and named the "Phil Turney Radio Booth." Turney and his broadcast partner for most of those years, Craig Vannest, traveled countless miles and hours to broadcast Wildcat games. A plaque signifying the honor was presented to Turney and he was introduced before the game. With him at the on-field introduction were, front row from left, daughter Blair, daughter Tatum, wife Darla, Phil Turney with granddaughter Reese, Po-Hi athletic director Jared Freeman, assistant athletic director Rob Fry; in back, Mary and Craig Vannest. (Photo by David Miller)

Phil started his broadcasting career as a junior at Oklahoma State and came to Ponca City after graduating. Phil explained, "I've been fortunate to work with a number of Hall of Fame coaches that have become some of my best friends: Rusty Benson, Keni Ray, Ron Harmon, Frank Piccarillo, Doug Tolin, Rick Poole to name a few. Great coaches and great friends like Rick Sodowsky, Bo Hannaford, Josh Allen, Todd Steidley and of course, two of my best friends Rob Fry and Pat Young. Thirty years of broadcasting was done with my best friend Craig Vannest. We just went anywhere and did games because we always knew there was a parent, grandparent or friend that would be disappointed if we didn't. That was a great motivator. I also watched the best male and female athletes Ponca City had to offer the past 36 years. We broadcast over 2000 games in these years."

Ponca City School's Athletic Director Jared Freeman said, "Generations of Po-Hi fans and athletes enjoyed listening to Phil's broadcasts. We would like to thank Phil for his commitment and loyalty to our student athletes, coaches and community."

Phil was also the host of Ponca City Public School's weekly *Coach's Corner* show. The show is taped every Monday and is shown on the district's TV Channel 60. Phil was the host from the show's inception until 2016.

Group Photo by David Miller, Ponca City News

Coach's Corner photo is Phil Turney with Po-Hi Stepper Coach Kristin Smith

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