

JOHNSON, EDDY TAYLOR
May 17, 1960-September 29, 1977

The Platte County Record-Times. October 7, 1977

Pickup Accident Takes Life Of Taylor Johnson

A Wheatland football star was killed after the pep rally Thursday night and Homecoming activities were cancelled Friday at Wheatland High School because of his death.

Investigating officers said 13 high school seniors were involved in the accident which killed Taylor Johnson, 17 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe P. Johnson.

The Wyoming Highway Patrol said Johnson died when the truck he was riding in collided with another one on a state highway one mile west of Wheatland. The vehicle went off the road and overturned.

All except two of the teenagers were treated Thursday night at Platte County Memorial Hospital and released or sought treatment at home for minor cuts and bruises.

Shelly Guthrie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Guthrie, and Lonnie Williams, daughter of Charles Williams, remained under observation and were reported in good condition Friday.

Johnson was a starting center and a starting middle linebacker on the Wheatland football team which was scheduled to play Glenrock High School Friday night. Football Coach Terry Stratton said team members Friday morning voted to forfeit the game with Glenrock out of respect for Johnson.

School administration officials canceled the remainder of the homecoming activities. According to Wheatland High school principal Bill Wheeler, "Johnson was very popular, a very good student and excellent athlete."

Highway Patrolman Tony Hoagland said no charges will be filed in connection with the accident which occurred at 9:24 p.m.

Hoagland said the two pickups involved in the accident were westbound when the first pickup, containing all girls suddenly turned left into a driveway.

The second pickup struck the rear of the first, causing the first to wrap around a power pole. The second truck traveled a little further then rolled, ejecting Johnson. All the teenagers riding in the rear of the two trucks were thrown out, he said.

Hoagland said Johnson was pronounced dead at the scene by Platte County Coroner Harley Prell. Johnson suffered massive head injuries, the patrolman said.

Services for Eddy Taylor Johnson were held at 10:00 a.m. Monday in the Wheatland High School auditorium with the Rev. Robert Moon of the Memorial Baptist Church officiating.

He was born May 17, 1960 in Wheatland to Joe and Clara Lou Johnson of Harris Park Route west of Wheatland. He was a Wheatland High School senior who had lived in the area all his life. Among the activities he participated in were Boy's State and a 4-H Citizenship course which he attended in Washington D.C. He was a member of the high school football and wrestling teams, a winner of the Future Farmers of America Speech and Creed Contest and actively interested in farming and ranching.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Johnson; four brothers, Joe P. Jr., Richard Lee and Robert W. Johnson all of Wheatland and Rex E. Johnson of Laramie; one sister, Charlene Johnson at home; his maternal grandfather; and two nephews.

Pallbearers were Tony Locke, Jock Mitchell, Rod Shellhart, Gale Rutherford, Don Pindell and John Burns. Burial was in the Wheatland Cemetery with Schrader-Prell Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

The Taylor Johnson Memorial has been established.