



VARSITY NEWS

The Oklahoma Varsity "O" Association Newsletter

DEAR LETTERWINNERS,

We cannot express how thankful we are to everyone who made it back to Spring Weekend and to our sponsors who helped make the weekend a success. It is always great to see our letterwinners who come to most of our events as well as those who may not have been back in a while. The weather finally cooperated for which we are also very thankful!

Now we move into the planning stages for next year and hope to bring our letterwinners even more opportunities to connect with each other. It is our goal each year to welcome back those who have not been back to campus in many years, so if you know of a teammate who has not been receiving our information, please direct them our way. Again, we definitely could not do our job without your support. Thank you for always being willing to help in whatever way you can.

Boomer Sooner!

FOLLOW VARSITY O ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER



Please be sure to like the Varsity O Association Facebook page and follow us on Twitter to keep up to date on all of the latest news about the Varsity O Association and OU Athletics!

REMEMBERING OUR LEGENDS

BILL COLVIN- Bill was a member of the Sooner football team in 1951.

TOMMY GRAY- Tommy was a member of the 1950 National Championship football team and played for the Sooners from 1948-1950.

BILL JACOBS- Bill was a member of the men's basketball team as well as the track and field team from 1949-1950. He was also the son of former OU Track and Field coach John Jacobs.

DENNIT MORRIS- Dennit player football for the Sooners and was a part of the 47 game winning streak and two National Championships.



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2014 VARSITY O SPRING WEEKEND RECAP

Our spring weekend turned out to be a stellar event for letterwinners and fans alike. Alumni came from far and wide to remember the many moments of Sooner Magic over the years and to appreciate this currently exciting time to be Crimson and Cream. Things kicked off for the Varsity "O" Association Spring Weekend on Friday at the Jimmie Austin OU Golf Club where several Varsity "O" members and OU supporters gathered to tee off in the annual Varsity "O" golf tournament. The evening was capped off with the Varsity "O" social hosted at the Chesapeake Energy Stadium Club on the east side of the stadium. The social was a classy event with letterwinners from all sports in attendance.

Saturday marked the annual football spring game. The spring game crowd was record setting for the Bob Stoops era with 43,500 in attendance to get the first look at the 2014 Sooner football team. Game play was very interesting as it introduced many new faces for the Sooner football team and showcased other Sooners with proven ability from previous seasons. Among the new faces was sophomore quarterback Baker Mayfield who threw for a game high 125 yards and two touchdowns. Proven player Eric Striker dazzled the crowd with sacks on back-to-back downs. Fans got to enjoy an introduction of Sooner football letterwinners and a celebration of the 2014 Sugar Bowl champions before the game and were treated with a postgame concert from pop cover group "My So-Called Band." After a fun filled weekend, We are excited to start the planning and preparation for what will surely be an exciting 2015 Spring Weekend!





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WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS NCAA RECAP

The Oklahoma Sooners women's gymnastics team has closed out its greatest season yet with its first NCAA National Championship. In a duel for the ages the Sooners tied the University of Florida with a score of 198.175, marking both the highest score and the first time co-winners were named in NCAA Championships history. The overall performance of Sooner women's gymnastics was without much flaw as they recorded a 49.550 in vault, a 49.500 in bars, 49.525 in beam and a 49.600 in floor. There was no shortage of individual standouts for the Sooners with Lara Albright and Haley Scaman both scoring 9.95 with their floor performances. Keeley Kmicciak was stellar on bars scoring 9.95 and Chayse Capps added a 9.95 score on the vault. Oklahoma now becomes one of only six teams in history to win a national championship in NCAA women's gymnastics.

The Sooner Magic did not stop there for this year's women's gymnastics team. On the day after the championship series, Taylor Spears won the 2014 National Champion on the balance beam which marks the first time since 1988 that the Sooner women had claimed an individual championship. Haley Scaman and Maile'ana Kanewa both put forth exceptional efforts claiming, runner-up honors on floor exercise.

With the conclusion of the season, the 2014 Sooner women's gymnastics team has secured its greatest season in school history with its first national championship, an individual national championship, a Big 12 title and an NCAA Regional title. The Sooners look forward to having a similar campaign in 2015.





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MEN'S GYMNASTICS FINISHES SECOND

The Sooner Men's gymnastics team closed out another solid season taking runner-up honors in the NCAA Finals. Finishing behind only the best team, the University of Michigan, the Sooners recorded a score of 441.650 at the event. Though the Sooners fell just short of a title, this season's performance will extend OU's streak of top three finishes at the NCAA Finals to 14 seasons. Seven Sooners placed well enough to qualify to compete in the individual championship series. Kanji Oyama (floor), Colin Van Wicklen (floor, vault) Alec Robin (floor, vault), Michael Reid (pommel horse), Michael Squires (still rings), Danny Berardini (parallel bars, high bar) and Will Clement (high bar) all gave their best efforts in the individual competition.

The Sooners garnered much success in the event finals earning three individual titles and nine total All-America honors. Alec Robin won two titles with a first place finish in both floor (15.425) and vault (15.250). Michael Squires defended his title on still rings with a score of 15.800. The gutsiest performance of the finals may have come from Will Clement, who competed on a broken foot and earned his first career citation with a 15.050. Danny Berardini scored a 15.300 on parallel bars and received his third career All-America award. Berardini also added All-America honors on the high bar with a score of 14.650. Freshman Colin Van Wicklen finished with honors on floor and vault.

The Sooners will be eager to top this extraordinary showing in the 2015 season when the 2015 championships come to Norman.





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COMPLIANCE CORNER

As another successful year for OU athletics concludes, some student-athletes will consider the possibility of pursuing a professional career in athletics. Many more student-athletes, including those with remaining eligibility, will be approached by athlete agents seeking to represent them. With these issues in mind, the Athletics Compliance Department would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the rules and regulations with respect to student-athletes and agents. The NCAA defines an agent as any individual that directly or indirectly represents or attempts to represent an individual for the purpose of marketing his or her athletics ability or reputation for financial gain.

A current student-athlete could jeopardize his or her eligibility and amateur status by:

- Entering into any agreement for future representation with an agent, either orally or in writing;
- Receiving benefits of any type from an agent and/or his or her representatives, e.g., cash or other gifts or services;
- Allowing any agent or outside representative to represent him or her in negotiations with a professional team;
- Allowing any agent or outside representative to market his or her athletics abilities to any professional team; or
- Allowing any agent or outside representative to communicate with professional sports teams on his or her behalf.

These prohibitions extend to the student-athlete's family members, guardians, and friends.

In addition to NCAA rules and regulations, there are rules and regulations in place regarding athlete agent conduct. One such regulation is the Uniform Athlete Agents Act ("UAAA"). The UAAA is a model law that provides a means of regulating the conduct of athlete agents. All but a few states have adopted this regulation, including Oklahoma.

The UAAA, as enacted, requires the following:

- The athlete agent must register with a state authority (in Oklahoma, they must register with the Secretary of State);
- The athlete agent must provide important background information, both professional and criminal during registration;
- The athlete agent must provide written notification to the institution when a student-athlete signs an agency contract before his or her eligibility expires.

In general, NCAA rules prohibit student-athletes from receiving benefits based on their athletics ability or reputation. On such exception is purchasing disability insurance. Disability insurance policies can be obtained by student-athletes to ward against possible financial losses due to injury or illness.

With respect to disability insurance, an agent, advisor or financial advisor may not:

- Assist a student-athlete in obtaining financing for disability insurance; or
- Loan the student-athlete money to purchase a disability policy.

Finally, the NCAA recognizes a difference between advising versus representation. Advising a student-athlete about his or her future may be appropriate in some cases, providing the discussions do not include an oral or written agreement to represent the student-athlete. Student-athletes who are approached by individuals or organizations seeking to advise or represent them should contact the Athletics Compliance Department prior to initiating any communication with the same.

Please remember, if you have questions about this information or about NCAA or Big 12 Conference rules, please contact the Athletics Compliance Department at (405) 325-7004. We appreciate your support of OU athletics and your help in making sure the University operates within NCAA rules and regulations.