Burns Hargis was named the 18th President of Oklahoma State University and the OSU System in December 2007 and took office March 10, 2008.

Hargis oversees one of the nation’s most comprehensive land-grant university systems with more than 35,000 students, 7,400 employees, and campuses located in Stillwater, Tulsa, Oklahoma City and Okmulgee.

He has guided OSU to record fundraising and is leading the $1 billion Branding Success campaign focused on student scholarships, faculty and other vital resources and programs. He also is overseeing a construction boom that is transforming the OSU campus to be more competitive in academics and athletics. Hargis has a bold vision of creating a modern land-grant university that cuts across disciplines to better prepare students for success.

Hargis, who holds degrees in accounting from Oklahoma State University and in law from the University of Oklahoma, is the second OSU graduate to lead the university as president. Oliver S. Willham, who served as president from 1952 to 1966, graduated from then Oklahoma A&M in 1923.

Before being named OSU President, Hargis had a long and distinguished legal and business career, with active civic and philanthropic leadership across many fronts. He also is familiar to many Oklahomans through the political perspective and wit he provided on the award-winning television program “Flashpoint”.

Prior to coming to OSU, he was Vice Chairman of Bank of Oklahoma, N.A. Before joining Bank of Oklahoma in 1997, Hargis practiced law in Oklahoma City for 28 years, most recently with the firm of McAfee & Taft. He is a former president of the Oklahoma County Bar Association, former president of the Oklahoma Bar Foundation, and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Hargis served as vice-chairman of the Oklahoma State Election Board, the Oklahoma Constitutional Revision Commission, and served as Chairman of the Oklahoma Commission for Human Services. He is a former member of the Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Hargis was a candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of Oklahoma in 1990.

A firm believer in the power of imagination and collaboration, Hargis was the first chair of the Oklahoma Creativity Project. He has served and chaired many boards, including the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges of Oklahoma State University.

Hargis received the state’s highest honor when he was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2009. Hargis and his wife, Ann, have two married children and three grandchildren.
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Mike Holder hit the ground running when he was named Vice President for Athletic Programs and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Oklahoma State University on Sept. 16, 2005.

In his 32 years of leading his alma mater’s golf program, Holder’s name became synonymous with success not only on the golf course, but in fundraising, facility development and the academic performance of his student-athletes. In fact, a case could be made that Holder took Oklahoma State’s already strong golf program and transformed it into America’s best.

Those same leadership skills have served him well in his time guiding OSU’s athletic department. His plan and vision for the betterment of Cowboy and Cowgirl athletics have already taken shape, most notably with the completion of Boone Pickens Stadium. The stadium, now a horseshoe with more than 60,000 seats, features more than 100 suites.

Under Holder’s direction, the Oklahoma State University Department of Athletics has continued to move forward while maintaining its traditional strengths. A total of 12 OSU sports programs have reached the national top 10 over the last two years. At the same time, the Cowboy football team has appeared in five straight bowl games for the first time in school history. OSU has won four more national team championships under Holder’s watch, raising the school’s championship count to 50 – the fourth best total in the country and tops in the Big 12 Conference.

Holder’s tenure has also featured landmark fundraising by the athletic department, including the $165 million gift from T. Boone Pickens that pushed OSU’s facility drive into high gear. The legendary OSU alum also helped complete the west end zone project with another $63 million gift in 2008. At Holder’s urging, OSU Athletics has placed a new emphasis on scholarship endowments. That endowment drive has seen Oklahoma State climb from dead last in the country to fourth in the nation and third in the Big 12.

Holder’s tenure has also included the creation of Karsten Creek, a magnificent golf course in Stillwater, selected as the Best New Public Course in 1994 by Golf Digest magazine. That publication listed Karsten Creek as the nation’s 12th “greatest public course” in 2011.

During his tenure as the men’s golf coach, Holder’s successes included not only his team’s results on the course, but his players’ performances in the classroom and beyond. Holder was the 1970 Big Eight medalist and led OSU to its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2005 as the Cowboys advanced to the second round with a thin roster that battled to the very end. Ford’s second year in Stillwater also resulted in an NCAA Tournament trip.

Another Holder hire, softball coach Rich Wielgus, took the Cowgirls to the Women’s College World Series in his fifth season at the helm. And women’s soccer coach Colin Carmichael, who took over the Cowgirl soccer program during Holder’s tenure, guided Oklahoma State to within a game of the final four in 2010. OSU has won the Big 12 regular season or postseason soccer title in each of the last three years.

Holder smoothly administered his first high-profile job search when Oklahoma State went looking for a men’s basketball coach. The pressure was on to fill a position that had been occupied by two of the winningest coaches in college basketball history in Henry Iba and Eddie Sutton. Holder tabbed Travis Ford for the job and the first-year coach immediately validated the decision by taking OSU to its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2005 as the Cowboys advanced to the second round with a thin roster that battled to the very end. Ford’s second year in Stillwater also resulted in an NCAA Tournament trip.

Holder is one of five coaches in NCAA history, regardless of sport, to win a national championship in four different decades. Three times Holder coached the Cowboys to the national team title the same year an OSU individual also claimed medalist honors (1978, 1987 and 2000). Along the way, he claimed 25 conference championships. His 21 Big Eight championships were the second most by a head coach in any sport, trailing only Kansas basketball coach Phog Allen.

As a student-athlete, Holder was the 1970 Big Eight medalist and led OSU to the conference team title. He was a third-team All-American as a junior and a senior and an honorable mention All-American as a sophomore.

Holder, a graduate of Ardmore High School, earned his degree in marketing from Oklahoma State in 1970 and completed work on his MBA at OSU in 1973.
Oklahoma’s only university with a statewide presence, Oklahoma State University is a five-campus, public educational system that improves the lives of people in Oklahoma, the nation, and the world by adhering to its land-grant mission of high-quality teaching, research and outreach.

OSU research, scholarship, and creative activities promote human and economic development through the expansion of knowledge and its application.

Established as a result of the Morrill Act, the Stillwater campus is the home of the OSU System. OSU was founded on Dec. 25, 1890, as Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College. On July 1, 1957, Oklahoma A&M College became Oklahoma State University.

The OSU System has an enrollment of more than 35,000 students across its five campuses with one of the largest freshman classes in school history expected for the fall of 2011. Named Oklahoma’s inaugural Truman Honor Institution for its production of Truman Scholars, OSU today boasts students from all 50 states and nearly 120 nations. There are more than 200,000 OSU alumni throughout the world.

When it comes to outreach, OSU reaches across the state of Oklahoma. It has five campuses: Stillwater, which includes the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences; OSU-Tulsa; OSU-Oklahoma City; OSU Institute of Technology in Okmulgee; and the OSU Center for Health Sciences in Tulsa, which includes the OSU Medical Center. OSU also boasts 16 agricultural experiment stations statewide, extension offices in 76 counties, a new sensor testing facility in Ponca City, and a biosciences institute in Ardmore in partnership with the Noble Foundation.

With more than 350 undergraduate and graduate degrees and options, as well as professional degree programs in medicine and veterinary medicine, OSU and its nine different colleges provide unmatched diversity of academic offerings.

OSU conducts innovative research and technology transfer that enhance Oklahoma’s economic vitality and its quality of life. The focus has expanded greatly since 1890, but the third cornerstone of the university’s land-grant mission remains as crucial for the future of Oklahoma as it was at statehood.

Interdisciplinary collaborations with academic institutions, government agencies, private business, and industry ensure that contributions of faculty and student researchers to the development of new knowledge and its dissemination are pertinent and lasting.

Areas of emphasis include: alternative energies and conservation; animal-based agriculture and biotechnology; environmental protection; food production and safety; health and medicine; manufacturing and advanced materials; national defense and homeland security; sensors and sensor technologies; and transportation and infrastructure.

Although OSU is a large, comprehensive university, its size does not minimize the personal attention given to each student. OSU encourages all students when they first enroll to identify the college in which they wish to major. Because the average number of students majoring in any one department is less than 150, the student can count on personal attention in a friendly environment.

OSU offers students many distinct advantages. It has more than 2 million volumes in the library; modern research laboratories and equipment; excellent physical education, recreation and student union facilities; nationally-recognized residence hall programs; outstanding cultural events; and 36 nationally-affiliated fraternities and sororities that provide a stimulating educational and social environment.
UNIVERSITY HISTORY
The story of Oklahoma State University began on Christmas Eve, 1890, at the McKennon Opera House in Oklahoma's territorial capital of Guthrie when Territorial Governor George W. Steele signed legislation establishing an Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College (OAMC) in Payne County.

OAMC's first students assembled for class on Dec. 14, 1891, even though there were no buildings, no books, and no curriculum. The college's first students attended classes in the Stillwater Congregational Church. The original campus consisted of 200 acres of prairie that were donated by four local homesteaders. The college's first six graduates received their diplomas in 1896.

Visitors to the OSU campus often marvel at its beauty and consistency of architecture. Much of the credit goes to legendary president, Henry G. Bennett, who served from 1928-1951. Dr. Bennett's 25-year campus master plan envisioned some of the university's most famous and beautiful structures, including the Edmon Low Library and the OSU Student Union.

A new campus master plan is guiding unprecedented construction that is making OSU more competitive in academics and athletics. Starting in the fall of 2008, OSU has opened the new Multimodal Transportation Terminal, the new North Classroom Building, the west end zone of Boone Pickens Stadium, refurbished Old Central, the Donald W. Reynolds Architecture Building and an upgraded Murray Hall. It has opened the new Henry Bellmon Research Center and is nearing completion on a major renovation of the Student Union. Hall of Fame Avenue on the north and University Avenue on the south have both been significantly upgraded, and the university has started an update to its campus landscape plan.

OSU grew quite rapidly following World War II. The post-war years were marked by a huge enrollment surge. Some graduates from that era may remember "Veteran's Village," a thriving community that developed on the northwest edge of campus as veterans and their families moved into surplus military housing provided by the college. The mid-1940s also were a golden era for athletics at Oklahoma A&M. In a 90-day period in early 1945, A&M teams won the Cotton Bowl, the NCAA championship in wrestling, and the NCAA championship in basketball. The next year, the wrestling and basketball teams repeated as national champions, and the football team won the Sugar Bowl. Coaches and players from that era are now sports legends. Coach Henry Iba set a national standard in basketball and Edward Gallagher took his wrestling teams to international prominence.

By the 1950s, the college had grown substantially. In 1957, Oklahoma A&M became The Oklahoma State University for Agriculture and Applied Science.

During the next three decades, OSU would build academic programs to match its new status. Enrollment more than doubled from 10,385 in 1957 to more than 23,000 in the 1980s. OSU became a statewide university system, adding branches in Okmulgee in 1946 and Oklahoma City in 1961. OSU merged with the Oklahoma College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1988, and OSU-Tulsa was born in 1999.

Today, OSU has more than 35,000 students across five campuses and a presence in every Oklahoma county through its extension offices and experiment stations. From six graduates in 1896, to nearly 5,000 annually today, the small college on the prairie has grown and prospered far beyond the dreams of its founders. OSU teaching, research and graduates are making a bigger impact on the lives of people around the world than ever before. It's a great time to be a Cowboy!
T. Boone Pickens is arguably OSU’s (and the state’s) most visible personality. His various endeavors and colorful demeanor have been chronicled on the covers of most American business publications and by some of the most-watched television programs in the country.

During the span of his long career, T. Boone Pickens has created thousands of jobs and made billions of dollars — for others as well as himself — and he isn’t timid about spreading it around. “I like making money. I like giving it away…. not as much as I like making it, but it’s a close second,” he has often said.

The breadth of his philanthropy — which approaches $1 billion during his career — includes health and medical research, treatment and services; entrepreneurship; kids at risk; education and athletics, with a particular focus on his alma mater, Oklahoma State University; corporate health and fitness; and conservation and wildlife management. While many donations involve tens of millions of dollars and attract headlines, there are hundreds more ranging from hundreds of thousands to several hundred. Each is important in its own way.

The establishment of the T. Boone Pickens Foundation has ensured his continued ranking as one of the top U.S. philanthropists. The Pickens Foundation is improving lives through grants supporting educational programs, medical research, athletics and corporate wellness, at-risk youths, the entrepreneurial process and conservation and wildlife initiatives.

In 2007, Pickens brought his innovative entrepreneurial approach to the philanthropic sector, announcing the Foundation’s largest gifts yet — $50 million each for two University of Texas health care institutions: UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Under unique agreements, the gifts create special funds at the institutions, requiring that they grow to $1 billion ($500 million each) within 25 years from earnings on the original principal and/or from new outside donations solicited by the institutions. When the $500 million marks are reached, the institutions will be able to distribute the funds as they deem fit.

In many ways, Pickens is a record-setting philanthropist. His $165 million gift to his alma mater, Oklahoma State University, in 2005 is the single largest gift for athletics in NCAA history, and the $7 million donation to the American Red Cross in 2005 is the largest individual contribution in the 150-year history of that organization.

On May 21, 2008, Pickens gave $100 million for the endowment of major faculty chairs and professorships at Oklahoma State University. The OSU School of Geology already bears his name from previous gifts to OSU.

In 2010, OSU launched its campus-wide “Branding Success” campaign and T. Boone Pickens again led the charge with yet another $100 million gift to his alma mater. In the course of his philanthropic history, Pickens’ gifts to Oklahoma State have been split virtually even between the academic and athletic endeavors on campus.

Recently, Pickens has become a national and indeed a world leader on the energy front with the launching of the Pickens Plan, which is a unique private sector initiative formed to address the economic and national security threats posed by America’s ever-increasing reliance on OPEC oil.

Twitter: @boonepickens
BIG 12 CONFERENCE — ONE TRUE CHAMPION

One. True. Champion. The Big 12 enters its 16th year in a unique position – as the only major conference in the nation to determine its champions in all sports directly on the field. Around here, it’s every team against every team. We believe that’s the way a true champion is made.

Determining our champion on the field is just one portion of how we play in the Big 12 Conference. The member schools of the Big 12 are neighbors, where road games don’t require crossing time zones. We battle each other hard on Gameday and celebrate wins against outside competition. Our student-athletes, fans and alumni have each other’s backs on other days – because that is what you do for your neighbor. A hard work ethic and Midwestern values are part of everyone associated with the Big 12 and its member schools.

This work ethic has translated to enormous success on the field of play in the first 15 years of the league. Since it began play in 1996-97, the Conference can boast of 42 team crowns and 477 individual NCAA Championships. The trophy case added more hardware last year as Oklahoma State (men’s cross country) and Texas A&M (women’s basketball) won national crowns. In the spring, the Aggies registered an unprecedented double three-peat by winning the men’s and women’s NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships for the third straight season.

Big 12 squads are highly-regarded on a national level in every sport. All but one sport the Conference sponsored this past season had at least one team ranked in the top five of the national polls, with eight sports boasting the nation’s No. 1 team. In addition, most of those top five rankings (and all the No. 1 rankings) were by schools that will be part of the league in 2011-12 and beyond.

In addition to the NCAA crowns and top rankings, several other teams made strong national showings. Ten Big 12 volleyball teams have competed in the regional semifinals of the NCAA Championship over the past three years, including Texas for three straight campaigns. In 2010-11, six of the eight sports that hold NCAA Championships where the Big 12 sponsored full round-robin competition had a team competing among the final eight teams or beyond.

The spring season was especially successful. Softball was well-represented at the Women’s College World Series as Big 12 teams made up half the eight-team field. Baylor was among the four national semifinalists in women’s tennis while Oklahoma State qualified for the semifinals in men’s golf. The league had multiple squads in the baseball College World Series field for the fourth time. In outdoor track and field, a total of 12 league squads placed among the top 25 finishers at the NCAA Championships, led by A&M’s national crown.

The individual honors also continued, most recently with Texas pitcher Taylor Jungmann named the recipient of the Dick Howser Trophy, presented to college baseball’s Player of the Year. The Conference had six athletes earn major individual awards in football and also had the national defensive player of the year for women’s basketball. Overall, more than 1,200 student-athletes have earned All-America recognition in the past four years alone.

Through its first 15 years, the Big 12 has claimed a team national championship in 16 of the sports it sponsors. The Conference is tied with a nation’s-best seven appearances in the BCS National Championship Game and leads the country with 89 football consensus All-America selections. League squads have combined to lead the nation in women’s basketball attendance each of the last 12 years and the Big 12 is the only conference to surpass the one-million mark in season attendance – doing so six times, including each of the last five seasons. In men’s basketball, the league has sent six different teams to the Elite Eight the past four campaigns, the most of any conference.

The 10 current members have accounted for 34 of 39 bowl appearances over the last five years, including eight BCS berths. All 42 NCAA men’s basketball bids in the last eight years and 77 of 80 in Big 12 history have been earned by the 10 schools.

The Big 12 and its member institutions are committed to a competitive environment where sportsmanship and fair play take center stage. Whether on the field, in the classroom, or within the community, the student-athletes, administrators, coaches and game officials of the Big 12 support the highest ideals in sportsmanship.

The academic accolades have always been strong in the Big 12. In 2010-11, four student-athletes were recipients of the NCAA Elite 88 Award. The honor recognizes individuals who have reached the pinnacle of competition at the national championship level, while also achieving the highest academic standard among their peers. In its short history, the Big 12 has also had over 500 Academic All-America recipients, averaging more than 30 each season.

Competitive excellence, scholarship and sportsmanship are all equal components of the Big 12 philosophy. All-Big 12 teams and Academic All-Big 12 squads are recognized for each sport at the end of their respective seasons. At the end of each academic year, the Conference honors its top male and female student-athletes with the Big 12 Athlete of the Year and Big 12 Sportsperson of the Year awards.

Institutions can also nominate student-athletes for the prestigious Dr. Prentice Gaut Postgraduate Scholarships. A total of 273 scholars have received over $1.8 million in postgraduate financial aid through the first 15 years of the program.

The Big 12 sponsors 23 sports with the addition of equestrian and rowing for the 2011-12 campaign. Men’s squads include baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, indoor track & field, outdoor track & field, swimming & diving, tennis and wrestling. Women’s teams are fielded in basketball, cross country, equestrian, golf, gymnastics, indoor track & field, outdoor track & field, rowing, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, tennis and volleyball.

The Conference is comprised of 10 institutions in the Central time zone that have shared many traditional rivalries throughout their histories. Member schools include – Baylor University, Iowa State University, University of Kansas, Kansas State University, University of Missouri, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, University of Texas, Texas A&M University and Texas Tech University.

The institutions created a league that encompasses five states and over 40 million people. More than 4,200 student-athletes from across the United States and around the World compete annually in the sports sponsored by the Conference.

This past summer, the Big 12 entered into a lucrative multi-year agreement with FOX Sports for selected football telecasts along with other sports. The Conference also has a multi-year agreement in place with ABC/ESPN, Inc. that began in 2008-09.

In its first 15 years, the Conference has distributed more than $1.4 billion to its member institutions. The conference office is headquartered in Irving, Texas.
BOONE PICKENS STADIUM

BPS BY THE NUMBERS

Capacity 60,218
Field Opening 1913 (known as Athletic Field)
Stadium Opening 1920 (capacity 8,000)
Rededication Sept. 5, 2009 (OSU 24, Georgia 10)

EXPANSIONS

1924 Permanent south side seating
1929 Permanent north side seating
1947 South side renovations raise capacity to 30,000
1950 North side renovations raise capacity to 39,000
1971 Field lowered, capacity increased to 51,000
1978 Coaches building constructed in east end zone
1980 New press box added for $1.8 million
1985 Lights are added for first time for $750,000
2004 South side completed, including suites and club seating
2006 North side completed, including suites and club seating
2008 Opened west end zone, raising capacity to 60,000
2009 Completed renovation, including west end zone, raises capacity to 60,218

RECORDS

OSU Home Record 312-186-24
Athletic Field Record 1901, 1903-1913 (23-12-7)
Stadium Record 289-174-17

TOP 10 OSU HOME CROWDS

1. 58,516 vs. Texas 2009
2. 56,901 vs. Grambling State 2009
3. 55,935 vs. Nebraska 2010
4. 55,752 vs. Missouri 2009
5. 53,012 vs. Georgia 2009
6. 52,811 vs. Texas Tech 2009
7. 52,463 vs. Troy 2008
8. 51,803 vs. Rice 2009
9. 51,778 vs. Tulsa 2010
10. 51,416 vs. Oklahoma 1996

TOP 5 SINGLE-SEASON ATTENDANCE AVERAGES

1. 2009 53,719
2. 2010 50,812
3. 1983 48,788
4. 1985 48,333
5. 2008 48,261

PERFECT HOME SEASONS (10)

1910 3-0
1912 5-0
1914 4-0
1918 2-0
1924 5-0
1931 6-0
1940 5-0
1945 3-0
1957 4-0
1984 6-0

FIVE-WIN HOME SEASONS

1912 5-0
1924 5-0
1932 5-0-1
1940 5-0
1972 5-1
1975 5-2
1976 5-1
1987 5-1
1988 5-1
2010 5-2

SIX-WIN HOME SEASONS

1931 6-0
1984 6-0
2002 6-1
2008 6-1
2009 6-2

MOST HOME WINS IN A SEASON


MOST CONSECUTIVE HOME WINS

9 (1984-1985)
The relocation of Oklahoma State’s daily football operations into the west end zone in the summer of 2009 punctuated one of the largest building projects in recent NCAA history. And the result is the new home of Cowboy football.

Boone Pickens Stadium is now a state-of-the-art facility that not only provides Oklahoma State football with a unique game-day environment and a roaring home-field advantage, but also with unrivaled facilities for daily operations located in incredibly convenient proximities.

Boone Pickens Stadium officially opened a new south side in 2004, a new north side in 2006 and in 2009 put the wraps on the west end zone project. And while the new digs put OSU on the cutting edge of collegiate facilities, the Cowboys still enjoy the home-field advantage that suffocates opponents with the tightest sidelines in all of football.

The result is that every fan in attendance is close to the action and very much a part of the OSU game-day experience in the coziest 60,000-seat stadium in America.

The west end zone project provides “BPS” with a new multilevel football operations center. Some of the new features include football offices, meeting rooms, speed and conditioning center, locker rooms, equipment room, athletic medicine center, media facilities, and hall of fame areas, along with a sprawling new training table area. Atop the facility, Boone Pickens Stadium is ringed by 101 suites and 4,000 club seats.

The stadium was officially re-dedicated on Sept. 5, 2009, when the Cowboys opened the season with a 24-10 win over No. 13 Georgia in front of what was then a record crowd of 53,012. That new record would fall four more times during the 2009 season.

The wheels were set in motion on the multi-faceted, multi-year stadium project when OSU graduate T. Boone Pickens made the single-largest gift in school history in 2003. His $70 million donation ($20 million of which was earmarked for stadium expansion) spurred the “Next Level Campaign”, which generated more than $100 million in gifts and pledges and involved more than 2,500 individuals, making it the single-most successful campaign in OSU history.

Pickens capped the fundraising effort in 2005 with his monumental gift of $165 million that allowed the university to complete the overhaul of the stadium. The gift is the largest ever received by a university athletic department.

It’s not just the stadium that has changed. In 2005, the playing surface was replaced with Football Pro, a surface created by Millennium Sports Technologies. It is considered the best and most durable synthetic surface available.

OSU’s football home is now far removed from the original field that opened in 1913. The Cowboys’ first athletic field gained its first permanent seating in 1920 and was repositioned from north-south to east-west to “avoid the prevailing strong winds” in the early 1900s.

The first addition to the stadium came in 1924 with the steel and concrete portion of the south stadium. During the 1929-30 seasons, 8,000 permanent seats were built on the north side to bring the capacity to 13,000.

In 1947, the south stadium was increased from 20 to 53 rows and capacity climbed to over 30,000. The first permanent press box was added in 1948. Prior to the 1950 season, 10,600 more seats were added to the north stands, increasing capacity to 39,000.

The next expansion didn’t come until 1971 when the cinder track around the field was removed. The field was lowered 12 feet and 20 rows of permanent seating were added to both sides.

The first artificial surface was installed in 1971 at a cost of $2.5 million, and the coaches’ offices (now part of the Athletic Center and utilized by various OSU coaching staffs) were constructed prior to the start of the 1978 season.

The stadium’s press box was torn down and reconstructed in 1980 and the lighting system was installed prior to the 1985 season.

A second artificial surface was installed prior to the 2000 season and remained in place until the summer of 2005.

Due to construction, official capacity at Boone Pickens Stadium had dropped to 44,700 before climbing back to a new high of 60,000 in 2008 when seats in the new west end zone were opened. As the suites across the top of the west end zone came on line, capacity rose to its current level of 60,218.

As a result of the completed stadium project, OSU had its highest average attendance in school history and shattered the school record for season tickets with nearly 46,000 purchased by the Cowboy faithful in 2009.

The Oklahoma State Cowboys now take to the field from the northwest corner of the stadium in front of the OSU student section.

In the east end zone is the Athletics Center, home of historic Gallagher-Iba Arena, which has been voted as the best college basketball venue in the country by at least two national media outlets. Atop the athletic center are the only suites in college athletics that can be utilized for football, basketball and wrestling.
Oklahoma State officially entered a new era in the summer of 2009 with the completion of the historic west end zone project.

The new home of Cowboy football spans more than 146,000 square feet and is unquestionably one of the elite football facilities, regardless of level of play, in the country.

And the glitter includes substance. Every detail that encompasses the daily life of a college football player has been included in the meticulous planning and execution of the west end zone. From ventilated lockers to functional meeting rooms at two different levels of the stadium, to the sports medicine center and its various options of hydrotherapy and digital x-ray capabilities, OSU’s student-athletes truly find themselves in a new world.

The new locker room and lounge area sprawls over 14,000 square feet and is just steps away from meeting rooms, the equipment room, a new strength and conditioning center room that is even larger than the locker room, the sports medicine center and the turf of Boone Pickens Stadium. The academic hub of the campus is a short stroll from the stadium and team meals are just an escalator ride away.

Just a few levels above the locker room, the team’s impressive dining room area offers views inside the stadium and westward looks at the skyline of the OSU campus.

How all-encompassing is the west end zone? OSU now has 101 suites that ring the top of the stadium. When Bullet, carrying the OSU Spirit Rider, streaks across the stadium turf following an OSU touchdown, he returns to his own stall on the field level of the west end zone. The OSU spirit groups have their own warm-up area and an underground loading dock can accommodate up to three semi-trucks at the same time.
The Oklahoma State football program celebrated the grand opening season of Boone Pickens Stadium in 2009.

The spectacular football operations center includes a brand new locker room, sports medicine center, weight room and equipment room, plus new coaches offices, team and position group meeting rooms, a new training table area and much, much more. Some facts and figures about the $286 million project:

:: The entire field level area is 146,000 square feet.
:: The equipment room is 9,000 square feet, a substantial growth from the previous 3,000 square foot equipment room.
:: The sports medicine center is 7,000 square feet with four hydrotherapy pools and a digital x-ray machine. Included in one of the hydrotherapy pools is an underwater treadmill complete with an underwater video camera that sports medicine professionals can use to record data.
:: The locker room is 14,000 square feet with ventilated lockers.
:: The football-only weight room is 20,000 square feet with all new equipment.
:: The theater room seats 200 people with plush chairs and extra leg room for student-athletes.
Fans and alumni of Oklahoma State University have long been blessed with one of the nation’s most well-rounded athletic departments. From bowl games in the fall and Finals Fours in March, to the College World Series in June, the cheering, and winning, never stops in Stillwater.

50
Oklahoma State has won 50 NCAA championships to rank fourth in the country and tops in the Big 12.

JANUARY, MARCH AND JUNE
Oklahoma State is one of only three Big 12 schools to have made appearances in January bowl games, the men’s basketball Final Four, the men’s College World Series and the Women’s College World Series since the inception of the league.

IT TAKES TWO
Stillwater was the home of college basketball’s first dynasty. Under Mr. Henry Iba, Oklahoma State (then known as Oklahoma A&M) became the first school to win consecutive NCAA championships in men’s hoops. OSU still ranks among the nation’s top 10 programs with six appearances in the Final Four and in the top 20 in all-time tournament wins.

LANDING IN OMAHA
Oklahoma State has appeared in College World Series 19 times to rank sixth among all NCAA schools. OSU has made 37 appearances in the NCAA baseball tournament to rank fourth all-time.

TAKEDOWN
Oklahoma State wrestling is the winningest program in the history of college athletics with 34 NCAA team championships.

STAR POWER
OSU’s individual honors have included the college baseball player of the century in Pete Incaviglia, a college baseball player of the decade in Robin Ventura, one of the top 20 college basketball players of all-time in Bob Kurland (as selected by ESPN), a Heisman Trophy winner (Barry Sanders) and runner-up (Terry Miller) and numerous NCAA individual champions and Olympic gold medalists.

FORE
The Cowboy golf team has won 54 conference championships and is the only school in the country to appear in every NCAA Tournament. Oklahoma State has claimed 10 national championships in the sport.

WINNING WOMEN
The Cowgirl golf program has won seven of the 15 Big 12 championships that have been contested and is a perennial national title contender.

THE 10 SPOT
Since 2007, 11 different OSU teams have reached the top 10 of their sport.

FAST PITCH
Oklahoma State has appeared in the Women’s College World Series seven times — tying for the most World Series appearances by a Big 12 school and ranking seventh nationally.

NET GAIN
The Cowgirl tennis program is a player on the national scene and at one point reeled off 11 consecutive conference championships.

CONSISTENCY
The Cowboy tennis team has been a postseason regular under James Wadley with nine appearances in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.

ON TOP
The 50th NCAA championship in school history came in 2010 when the Cowboy cross country team won its third NCAA title and second straight.

EXPANSION
Two of the newest sports on OSU’s campus are women’s soccer and equestrian. Equestrian has already claimed a national title and is a year removed from a Big 12 title. The soccer team has reached the top 10 in each of the past five seasons and has won a regular season and Big 12 tournament title over the last three years. The Cowgirls came within a game of the women’s soccer final four in 2010.

TRACKING SUCCESS
OSU’s track and field history includes more than 80 All-Americans.

COWGIRL RECONFIGURATION
The OSU women’s basketball program has re-emerged under Kurt Budke and has become a Big 12 contender and reached the Sweet 16.
Homecoming Week is celebrated throughout the country. At Oklahoma State University, Homecoming has special meaning and the celebration reaches a level unmatched anywhere else. In fact, “America’s Greatest Homecoming Celebration” at OSU is known coast-to-coast as one of the country’s great college football weeks and weekends.

Throughout OSU’s Homecoming activities, more than 50,000 alumni visit Stillwater. That total does not include fans and alumni who make the trek just for the football game.

From street painting to Orange Ambiance, and from the well-known “Walkaround” in which city streets are closed for a gigantic block party centered around Homecoming decorations, to “Homecoming And Hoops” nothing says college football like Homecoming Week at Oklahoma State. It is the epitome of life in a college town.

A variety of activities are held throughout Homecoming Week and they touch nearly every aspect of campus life.
OSU SPIRIT

OSU PROUD
Alumni of Oklahoma State University are as loyal to their alma mater as any group in America. Just look around the Stillwater campus. OSU’s director of athletics, head football coach and head wrestling coach are all graduates of Oklahoma State.

Many factors contribute to the “college experience” – not the least of which is gaining a feeling of belonging and a sense of loyalty to the school, its faculty and staff, the community that embraces the university, and the athletic teams that compete to garner conference and national honors.

Wearing school colors and displaying emblems of the university are life-long symbols of allegiance. For Oklahoma State, Orange Peel and Homecoming are yearly celebrations that bring much activity and excitement.

THE COWBOY TRAIL
Dating back to the 1890s, Oklahoma A&M sports teams had been referred to as Agriculturists or Aggies, the Farmers, and officially but unpopularly, the Tigers. But by 1924 Charles Saulsberry, sports editor of the Oklahoma City Times, and other writers who regularly covered college events, had begun to refer to Stillwater’s teams as the A&M Cowboys. Reporters’ constant search of colorful synonyms started sprinkling Cowpokes, Pokes, Waddies, Cowpunchers and Punchers in conversation. “Cowboys” had a Southwestern flavor and flair that fit like a favorite pair of boots.

The Athletic Council authorized athletics director Edward C. Gallagher to have 2,000 balloons printed, “Oklahoma Aggies—Ride ‘Em Cowboy” for sale at football games in 1926.

PISTOL PETE

Around 1923, when Oklahoma A & M College was searching for a new mascot to replace its tiger (copied along with the school’s orange and black colors, from university founders who hailed from Princeton), a group of students saw Frank Eaton leading the Armistice Day Parade. He was approached to see if he would be interested in being the model for the new mascot, and he agreed. A likeness was drawn and began to be used on sweatshirts, stickers, etc., and a tradition was born.

That caricature was the basis for what is used today as the official Oklahoma State University mascot. For 35 years, the crusty old cowboy was a living symbol of OSU, representing the colorful past of the area. As such, he would attend OSU athletic events, building dedications, etc., and sign autographs, pose for photographs and reminisce about the Old West with anyone who would listen.

To this day, his likeness is a visible reminder of the Old West to literally millions of people yearly as a symbol of colleges whose mascots pay homage to the cowboy. Each year, OSU students tryout for Pistol Pete. A panel of former “Petes” judge the tryouts and select the two best candidates based on an interview, a mime, and posing as mascot in different “game situations.” The two who are selected split the approximately 500 appearances in different “game situations.” The two who are selected split the approximately 500 appearances in different “game situations.”

FRANK EATON - BEFORE PISTOL PETE

“My boy, may an old man’s curse rest upon you, if you do not try to avenge your father...You must never stop until they are all accounted for!” These words, according to one of Eaton’s many stories, were spoken by a family friend following the brutal murder of his father, and guided the formative years of Frank’s life.

Born in 1860, in Hartford, Connecticut, Frank moved with his family to Kansas shortly after the close of the Civil War. When Frank was eight-years-old, his father, a former Union soldier, was shot and killed by a group of lawless former Confederates. Frank was a witness to the murder and each of the murderers’ faces was imprinted in his memory.

After being challenged to avenge his father’s death by Mose Beaman, (the family friend), Frank set out to learn how to handle guns. Mose gave him a gun and holster, and taught him how to handle and shoot guns. Frank quickly learned to “shoot a snake’s head off with either hand”. During the next few years, Frank’s days were spent helping his mother with chores and practicing shooting. With each passing year, he became faster and more accurate with his guns.

When Frank was 15, he learned of the location of one of his father’s killers. After deciding it was almost time to set out on his mission, Frank wanted to make sure his shooting skills were good enough. He decided to visit Fort Gibson, a cavalry fort, to try to learn more about handling a gun. There he competed with the cavalry’s best marksmen, beating them each time. After many competitions, the fort’s commanding officer, Colonel Copinger gave Frank a marksmanship badge and a new name. From that day forward, Frank would be known as Pistol Pete!

BULLET

The Oklahoma State University Cowboys have many symbols of their western heritage, but none is more appropriate than their mascot, Bullet. The Spirit Rider program debuted in 1984 with the first few Spirit Riders providing their own horse to serve as mascot for the OSU Cowboys.

However, in 1988, Stars Parr Money was donated to the OSU Athletic Department to be used specifically as the mascot. Since that time, Bullet has delighted crowds with his traditional sprint across the football field following every Cowboy touchdown. The heart of the Cowboy Spirit Rider Program, Bullet is not only seen at Boone Pickens Stadium and other OSU football games, he’s made appearances at local elementary schools, parades, rodeos and other special events, including the opening ceremonies of the Oklahoma State Special Olympics.

The tradition of the Spirit Rider can be attributed to the late Eddy Finley, who wanted to promote school spirit the “cowboy way,” on horseback. Since that time, additional support has come for the Spirit Rider and Bullet, much of it due to Finley’s hard work. A horse trailer, custom-treed saddle and uniform dress for the Spirit Rider and ground crew have been donated to OSU. In honor of the Spirit Rider and its tradition, Jim Hamilton sculpted the Spirit Rider bronze statue that sits next to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater.