

# THE BAJA OKLAHOMAN

*Newsletter of the OU Club of Austin*

1905 Shadow Brook Circle, Round Rock, Texas 78681 • 512-431-2069 / 512-255-6402 • February 2012

## Sooner books' authors here Tuesday evening

*Jay Wilkinson, Mark Bradley, Danny Bradley will visit*

Austin area Sooners will welcome some honored names from the University of Oklahoma's rich athletic heritage on Tuesday evening when two families of the Sooners' football program come calling.

The occasion is a book-signing party. Not only will the three authors be present, but copies of their books also will be available for sale.

We'll gather at the Hyatt Regency, downtown at 208 Barton Springs Road, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Joining us will be:

- Jay Wilkinson, son of Coach Charles "Bud" Wilkinson, who has just released *Dear Jay, Love Dad: Letters to His Son*, published by the University of Oklahoma Press, and

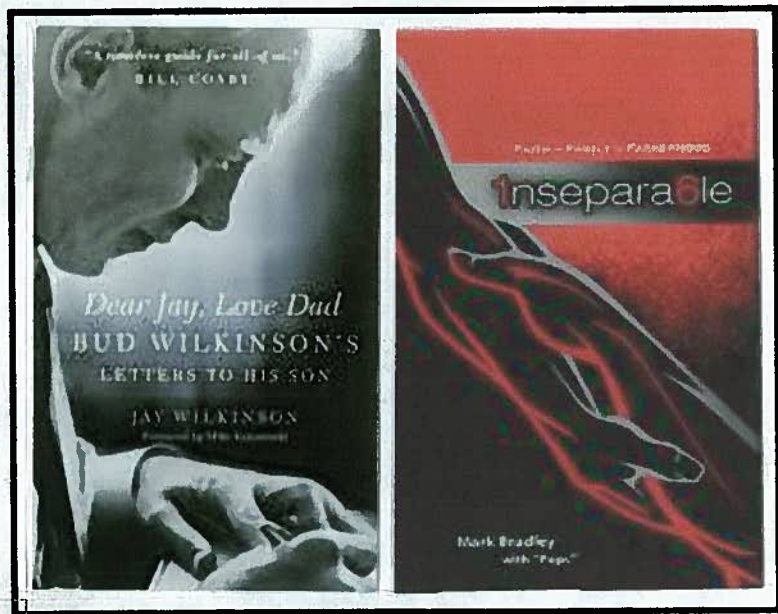
- Former Sooner quarterback Danny Bradley and his son, Mark Bradley, former OU defensive back, who likewise have just released their book, *Inseparable — Faith, Family, Fatherhood*.

(The numerals in the title's first word reflect the no. 1 that both men wore while playing for OU. The no. 6 represents Danny's number in high school, which was inspired by OU's quarterback at the time, Thomas Lott. And the nos. 1 and 6 represent the no. 16 that Mark wore with the NFL's Chicago Bears.)

Both books are centered on the vital and precious nature of family relationships.

The Wilkinson book is based on 47 letters that Coach Wilkinson wrote his son Jay, while Jay was attending Duke University and winning All-America honors in football.

The Bradleys' book details how a father and son are reunited years after the son's birth and now enjoy a close relationship.



*—Reviewed on page 3*

## OU TV net may open this fall

According to a national sports business publication, the OU television network is to take to the air the fall.

*Sports Business Journal* reported recently that some 1,000 hours of programming about

OU sports and academics will air on Fox Sports Southwest and perhaps other Fox Sports outlets.

At last report, the University and Fox were negotiating final financial details.

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# 'NEATH A WESTERN SKY: OU campuses made completely non-smoking by governor's order

An action last month taken by regents of the University of Oklahoma has been overturned by an executive order issued earlier this month by Gov. Mary Fallin.

In January, regents approved a campus smoking ban effective in July but left two parking lots (Dale Hall, the Lloyd Noble Center) open to smoking.

However, Fallin's order will ban tobacco use on any state-owned or state-leased property. No exceptions.

When asked if the ban also applies to state highways, a spokesman for the governor said it would not.

**Researcher, OU alum, dies** Dr. Richard Olney, an internationally renowned researcher who dedicated his life to finding a cure for Lou Gehrig's disease died recently.

His life was claimed by that disease after an eight-year struggle.

Olney was a 1968 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University who re-

## Campus notes

ceived his medical degree from the Baylor College of Medicine in 1973.

**Textbook "comics"** An OU business professor spoke recently at a conference held on campus and intended to bring together people from the worlds of technology, entertainment and design.

Jeremy Short, professor at OU's Price College of Business, discussed several textbooks he has written in a format described as "graphic novel."

"While you might tend to think of graphic novels as dumbing down content — as in 'Aren't comics for kids?' — we actually provide a richer narra-

tive than many books that summarize concepts," Short told *The Daily Oklahoman*.

**OU Health Sciences growth** The growth of medical care provided by OU physicians and other medical personnel was noted this month by *The Tulsa World*.

The *World* analyzed State Finance Office figures and found that OU Health payrolls had jumped by some 10 per cent over the previous year, to a total of \$350 million.

The increase is from private practice fees, not state appropriations, it was noted. In fact, state funding was reduced in the current state budget by some \$4 million, to \$91 million.

Last year, 154 new faculty were added to the OU Health Sciences payroll.

## '12 football schedule filled with games vs. Florida A&M, at UTEP

OU has added a game at UT-El Paso and a home game with Florida A&M to fill out its 2012 football schedule.

The Sooners' non-conference schedule already had included Notre Dame's Oct. 27 visit to Norman.

A game being considered at Rutgers was decided against by OU officials. They figured that, paired with a trip to West Virginia in November, there would be too much travel for the team and its fans.

**Baseball rated 3rd in Big 12** Baseball coaches in the Big 12 have predicted that the Sooners will place third in the conference this year behind Texas A&M, followed by UT.

The Sooners are ranked 15th in a national poll published by *USA Today*. A&M and Texas are rated 5th and sixth in that poll.

**Beauty and the Beast** What has become an annual event at Norman was a big success again this year.

Billed as "Beauty and the Beast," the double bill features simultaneous contests for the wrestling and the women's gymnastics teams at opposite ends of the Lloyd Noble Center.

## Sports notes

A crowd of some 2,500 saw the wrestlers top no. 20 North Carolina St. and the women gymnasts beat no. 23 Virginia Tech.

**Just no use** The Sooner women's basketball team tried Johann Strauss and Kevin Durant but even they weren't up to the task.

The chore involved saddling the University of Connecticut Huskies women's basketball team in Norman.

OU Coach Sherri Coale tried playing Strauss' melodic works in practice leading up to the game and invited the Oklahoma City Thunder's star, Kevin Durant, to attend the contest.

But the no. 3 Huskies won, 73-55.

Coach Coale, maybe next time try a bit of Toby Keith.

**Softball team off to good start** The OU softball team won all five of its games in a season-opening tourney at Las Vegas, then split two games in an SEC-Big 12 challenge at Auburn.

**The Baja Oklahoman** is a publication of the OU Club of Austin, a non-profit organization of University of Oklahoma alumni and friends of the University in Austin and Central Texas • Members are encouraged to submit material for publication. • An application for club membership appears on the club's website. Membership is \$25 a year; \$35 for a family.

### Club officers — 2011-12

President	Fred Dupy
Vice president	Dan Hodges
Secretary	(vacant)
Treasurer	Jessica Benedict
Membership	Janet Atwood
Watch parties	Lee Lanham
Communications co-ord.	(vacant)
Scholarship chair	(vacant)
Student recruitment chair	(vacant)

#### Club website:

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Webmaster: Craig Likes

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# Bradleys' father-son reunion a compelling tale

By BRITNI DANIELLE  
essence.com

Former Sooner Danny Bradley was rising in the NFL ranks when rumors began to swirl that he was the father of a young son, a toddler, to be exact.

Then playing for the Los Angeles Rams, Danny decided to risk everything — his new family, his professional football career and his shot at fame — to get the truth.

When he found out he was indeed the boy's father, Danny set out on a quest and overcame tough obstacles to be an active part of his son's life.

Now over 20 years later, Danny and his son Mark Bradley, also a former OU and NFL player, have co-authored a book, *Inseparable: Faith, Family, Fatherhood*, chronicling their inspiring father-son bond.

ESSENCE.com spoke with Danny



***Inseparable***  
By Mark Bradley and  
Danny Bradley  
Dallas-Fort Worth:  
Sports Group Publ.

and Mark about their reunion, and what other fathers can take away from the book. Danny, asked about the difficulties of reuniting after such a long time, said his experience amounted to "a love story about a father in pursuit of a relationship with his son. I would not allow anyone or any career to come between us because I so desperately wanted to be the father that [Mark]

never had.

"It took 25 years because his mother would not allow me free access. In the end of the book, his mother gives a full disclosure about why she did the things she did. [She talks about] the level of jealousy and envy that she carried for many years."

Mark, asked about what growing up was like for him, said "Early on, life was good for me. I had a birth certificate dad who I thought was my father. Growing up wasn't challenging for me because he was there. When the paternity test my *real* father initiated took place, that's when my mom kinda explained that the guy we just took the blood test with was my dad," he said.

The story is told in great detail and represents a compelling real-life drama that results in the reconciliation of father and son.

# Bud: a great football coach, and so much more

The tendency among sports fans is to believe that coaches and players think of nothing but their sport 'round the clock. Jay Wilkinson's new book, *Dear Jay, Love Dad*, offers evidence that at least in the case of legendary OU football coach Bud Wilkinson this was not remotely true.

Scenes of family sharing and support, of self-assigned study of academic matters and long conversations about public affairs and the great thinkers of history are recounted throughout the Wilkinson book.

In letters to his son, the elder Wilkinson refers to Vance Packard, Jesus, Abraham Lincoln, Douglas MacArthur, Socrates, Polonius, Julius Caesar, Gallileo. That's quite a lineup.

And much of this general attitude toward life was passed on by the coach to his players at Oklahoma. Coach Wilkinson was proud that nearly 90 per cent of his athletes graduated. And he insisted that each player act in a gentlemanly manner and dress neatly, particularly when on team trips.

The coach was a family man, first and foremost, his son's book makes clear. The family took numerous trips together and made a point of staying



***Dear Jay, Love Dad***  
By Jay Wilkinson  
Norman: University of  
Oklahoma Press

in touch often, even after the two Wilkinson boys, Jay and Pat, were away at school or beginning their own adult lives.

Often in his letters to Jay, Bud made it clear to his son that he was proud of him and loved him completely. In the early 1960s of our society, this was rare for a father.

The book centers on 47 letters Jay received from his father while in college at Duke and the Episcopal Theological School at Cambridge, Mass.

In the opening pages, Jay recounts how he grew up in Norman and came early to realize how important OU football had become since the mid-1940s to a state and a people who had suffered — economically, socially and psychologically — perhaps even more than most during the Depression years.

State pride was at an all-time low. "Okie" still was an epithet rather than a term of state pride denoting a willingness to work hard even in the face of overwhelming odds and the scorn of others.

Jay writes of his father's early years at OU thus:

"He had a unique style and approach, a certain grace, spirit and diplomacy that transformed not only an athletic program and a university but also an entire state. As his teams began winning with consistency, with the victories came a rebirth of the citizenry's enthusiasm, confidence and pride. Rodgers and Hammerstein's groundbreaking musical *Oklahoma!* had begun promoting a positive and popularized image of the state only a few years earlier, and Oklahomans were quick to embrace the new self-esteem that both the musical and the football wins generated."

Jay Wilkinson's book is well-written, thoughtfully presented and will be of interest not only to OU sports fans but to all who care about the University, about Oklahoma or about the immeasurable importance of family to each of us.

—g.o.

**OU Club of Austin**  
**1905 Shadow Brook Circle**  
**Round Rock TX 78681**

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## OU's Sutton Avian Center cameras see baby eagles

For some fun television viewing these days you might want to check out a couple of live video cameras that are trained on new born eagles in Oklahoma.

OU's Sutton Avian Research Center at Bartlesville has live cameras at nest-

ing sites near Vian and Stillwater.

The Vian site is particularly interesting these days. Three little bitty eagles are being tended by their Mama. A few days back, the nest was coated in some light snow but it's clear now and often busy.

The video cameras were installed in the fall of 2010 and have yielded a good deal of information about eagles' habits.

The pictures are vivid and detailed and evidently in color, though this time of year they look at first like black and white.

It's fine viewing. You can check out the site — live — around the clock, every hour of any day.

But don't take too long. Those little critters will be learning to fly before we know it.

The website is located online at [www.suttoncenter.org](http://www.suttoncenter.org) (then click on "Education" in the bar near the top of the page, then on "Live Bald Eagle Nest Camera.")

### Calendar of events

Event/(TV channel)	Day/date	Time	Where
Women's basketball OU @ Texas (FSN)	Feb. 25 Sat.	5 p.m.	Erwin Center, 1701 Red River St.:
Boomer Sooner Book Signing party	Feb. 28 Tues.	5:30- 8:30 p.m.	Hyatt Regency, 208 Barton Spgs. Rd.
Men's basketball OU @ Texas (ESPN2)	Feb. 29 Wed.	8 p.m.	Erwin Center, 1701 Red River St.:
Red-White spring football game	Apr. 14 Sat.	TBA	Owen Field, Norman



## CLUB OF AUSTIN

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