



Flatbellies

by A. B. Hollingsworth

344 pages.

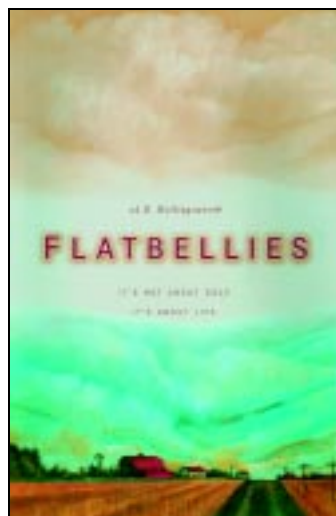
\$22.95 hardcover.

Sleeping Bear Press

First novels often exhibit an autobiographical bent. True to that form, OU graduate A. B. Hollingsworth has turned his high school golf team's unlikely pursuit of a state championship into a coming-of-age tale of five unforgettable young men living in a thinly disguised version of his mid-'60s hometown of El Reno.

The skillfully crafted characters of Chipper, Jay, L.K., Buster and Peachy enter their senior years dedicated to achieving the impossible, but love, loss and life keep getting in the way. Young enough to be immortal and old enough to know better, the team challenges fate as only teenagers can, accepting that they will grow older, denying that they will ever grow old. While the story is not unique, the telling of it here is as fresh as it is nostalgic.

Not surprisingly, given the author's Sooner ties, the book is replete with OU references. Hollingsworth had an outstanding undergraduate career, earning a bachelor's on his way to an OU medical degree, a surgical residency at the OU Health Sciences Center and a fellowship at UCLA. A surgeon specializing in the treatment and research of breast cancer, he practiced in southern California for 10 years before returning to Oklahoma, where he was the founding



director of OU's Institute for Breast Health and now holds a similar position at Mercy Health Center in Oklahoma City. His first book was in his area of medical expertise, *The Truth about Breast Cancer Risk Assessment*.

The Washington Times rated *Flatbellies* as one of the top ten golf books of all time, fiction or non-fiction. Hollingsworth is working on a sequel that will take some of the team to college—and where else but OU?

Interestingly, after that state high school tournament his senior year, in which the El Reno team finished fifth, Hollingsworth never has played another round of golf.

The Story of Golf in Oklahoma

by Del Lemon

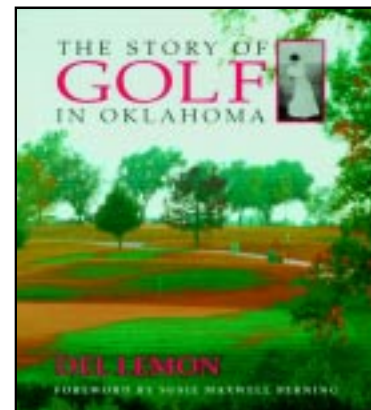
Foreword by Susie Maxwell Berning
400 pages.

15 color & 49 black/white illustrations.

\$34.95 hardcover.

University of Oklahoma Press

Golf has had an amazingly rich history in the Sooner State in the century since Alexander Findley laid out territorial Oklahoma's first course in Guthrie in 1900. Yet when sportswriter Del Lemon came north from Austin to cover the 1994 PGA Championship at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, he found that no history of the sport in Oklahoma existed. An OSU graduate with strong



Oklahoma ties, Lemon immediately set out to remedy the situation.

The author's exhaustive research has yielded a highly readable, anecdote-packed account peopled with golf's biggest names from Byron Nelson, Walter Hagen and Ben Hogan to Arnold Palmer and Tiger Woods. At one time or another, they all played in Oklahoma. A young Nelson credited his 1930 win at the Southwest Invitational Amateur with boosting his confidence to pursue a professional career. In Tulsa, Palmer took his last swing at the PGA title, the only major to elude him. Pete Brown, the first black PGA member to win an official PGA event, did so in 1964 at the Waco Turner Open in Burneyville.

Lemon covers Oklahoma golf from every angle—the state's outstanding courses built by some of the sport's greatest designers, professional and amateur players and tournaments, native Oklahomans whose careers added luster to the sport. He devotes a chapter to women golfers—the legendary Babe Didrikson Zaharias; Patty Berg, who won her last title at Muskogee; Norman native Betty Jameson; Tulsa's Nancy Lopez; and Susie Maxwell Berning, who wrote the book's foreword.

Varsity programs—the women's of the Tulsa University and the men's of the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State—all with NCAA Division I National Championships—receive special attention. Lemon tops off Sooner nostalgia with a reprint from *Golfweek* magazine, "Charlie Coe: the Last of the Career Amateurs," a touching tribute to OU's greatest golfer.

—Carol J. Burr