



Sooner and Boomer IV made their last run during the Oklahoma State game on November 24, retiring after 15 seasons of pulling the Sooner Schooner.

You see them at every sporting event, press passes clipped to their belts, overlaid with camera equipment, doggedly patrolling the sidelines, crouching precariously under the basket or climbing atop the dugout to get a better angle. While squinting through their viewfinders, they often plant themselves in harm's way as a 250-pound linebacker hurtles straight at them in pursuit of an opposing receiver headed for the end zone. They will do anything to get the shot, that one photo that will play above the fold in the Sunday paper or grace the cover of a weekly sports magazine.

Nothing beats being there in person when the Sooners compete, but the sports photographer can grab the image that eludes the human eye and capture it forever. A select 100 photos were chosen from the thousands shot by dozens of photographers during the 2007-08 season for the Athletics Department's "Year in Pictures" in its e-newsletter *Boomer Blast*. On the following *Sooner Magazine* pages is a sampling—the best of the best—courtesy of OU Athletics Media Relations. —CJB *continued*



SOONER SPORTS: THE YEAR IN PICTURES



DeMarco Murray goes up and over the Texas A&M defense for a touchdown on November 3.



OU's mountainous men, Durs Robinson and Phil Loadholt, share some love.



DeMarco Murray sprints toward the end zone against Texas on October 6 in front of famous supporters, professional wrestling commentator "J.R." and country music star Toby Keith, at right.



Big 12 softball defensive player of the year Savannah Long rounds third after her home run vs. Oregon in the NCAA Regional final.

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ABOVE: Softball's Jeannie Douglas and Susan Ogden turn up the excitement during pregame introductions.

RIGHT: The camera catches a bird's eye view of the women's basketball team's huddle.





Tony Crocker slams home a basket against Arkansas defenders on December 15.



ABOVE: ESPN College Game Day's Lee Corso and Kirk Herbstreit pick the Sooners over Mizzou on October 13.

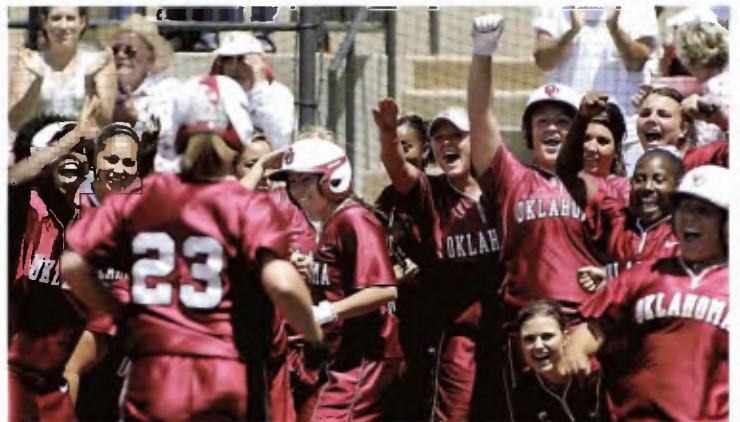


LEFT: The women's volleyball team celebrates during a match in McCasland Field House.

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Legendary Sooner gymnast Bart Conner, far right, takes the ESPN microphone to jubilant members of OU's NCAA championship team.



Members of the OU softball team wait for Susan Ogden to touch home plate after her grand slam vs. Oregon in the NCAA Regional.



Scottesha Miller sends the dirt flying in this jump at John Jacobs Field.



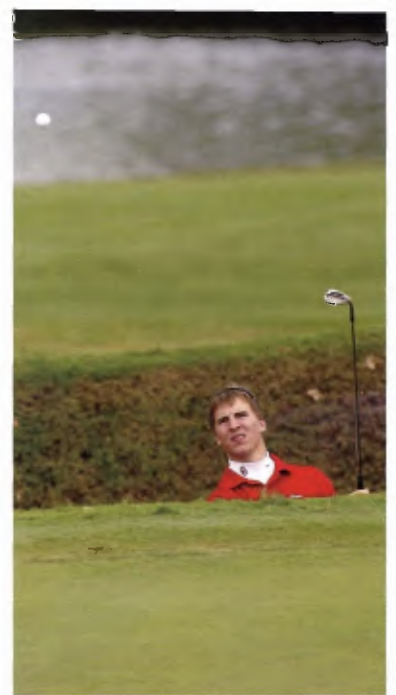
Hollie Vise meets the beam at the NCAA South Central Championships inside Lloyd Noble Center.



Freshman Ana-Maria Constantinescu proved a solid foundation for the women's tennis program in her first season.



ABOVE: Sheldon Leith clears a hurdle at a meet at John Jacobs Field.



RIGHT: Jesse Schutte pitches out of a deep bunker at the 2007 Oklahoma Intercollegiate in October.



Shadows profile freshman outfielder Casey Johnson as he approaches the plate at L. Dale Mitchell Park.



The Oklahoma soccer team rallies around goalkeeper Jenny Nichols.



Fans look on at L. Dale Mitchell Park as the sun sets during a game against Texas on April 4.

