



# LETTERS

## Good Man to Have Onboard

Dear Coach Stoops,

I have read, three times, the article in the most recent *Sooner Magazine* [Winter 2009] titled "The Other Bob Stoops." It warms my heart and makes the word *Sooner* that much more special.

In 1999, when you were hired, I asked a friend of mine in New Port Richey, Florida, "Who is this man?" He is a solid Gator fan and had met you a few times over 10 years ago. His comment, "You're going to be very happy OU decided on Bob Stoops." Wow, was he *right!*

As an OU alum (1968), a die-hard Sooner fan and a volunteer in Western New York, I applaud your efforts and admire your character. You're helping OU football *beyond* football.

*Proud to have you on our Sooner side.*  
*Sam Talarico, '68 bba*  
*Lewiston, New York*

## Returning the Favor

I read with interest the letter from C. Hoyt Andres regarding the classy treatment of the Alabama football team when they visited Norman to play the Sooners. As a follow-up to Mr. Andres' experience, a friend and I went to Tuscaloosa the following year to see the Sooners play Alabama at their place. We got there on Friday evening and, wearing my OU "colors," I fully expected to take a considerable amount of razzing. However, what occurred was quite different. Their fans were exceptionally gracious hosts and, over the evening and next day before the game, at least forty people came up to me and asked if we were having a good time and if everyone was treating us well. I was overwhelmed.

I finally asked someone why they were treating us so well. The gentleman I asked told me of the experience they had had the year before in Norman; the exact story Mr. Andres told in his letter. He said that it had been broadcast on the air and printed in newspapers reminding all the Tide faithful of how well they had been

received in Norman. (He did tell me that they were not likely to be so kind to Auburn fans.)

The experience I had at Alabama underscored how proud I am to be a Sooner and how the classy treatment of the Alabama fans at Norman brought out the best in the fans of both programs.

*John Broadwell, '64 mba*  
*Seneca, South Carolina*

## 1971 Game Was Unparalleled

Thanks for memories in Winter 2009 edition ["Game of the Century"]. Unmentioned and, I suggest, the real reasons the 1971 game cannot be challenged as the greatest, besides living up to its hype and back-and-forth excitement, were: NU in 1971 went undefeated; OU lost only to Nebraska; and CU lost only to Nebraska and Oklahoma. Colorado, coached by former OU quarterback Eddie Crowder, won away games at both Ohio State and LSU.

A 24-hour span of glorious bowl games saw these three teams crush pretenders (Alabama, Auburn and Houston) for the national title. On Jan. 2 [1972], the AP ranked NU, OU and CU the top three teams in post-season voting. It's unlikely a conference will ever be that dominant in one year. Only in a dream will a conference ever finish 1-2-3 nationally again.

Forgotten were pregame comments by a Sugar Bowl rep predicting OU would win this game by 20 points. [Nebraska coach Bob] Devaney later admitted using that prediction to motivate his players as they contemplated his retirement and the already arranged Orange Bowl.

*Darrel Cornell, '78 ph.d. civil eng*  
*Littleton, Colorado*

## Fore!

Kudos to Jack Moore's letter ("Credit More OU Golf Champs") in your Winter 2009 issue. Mr. Moore's letter was a welcome testimony from one of our former conference champions.

Your Editor's Note following his letter, however, has an error. The OU golfer who won the 1952 NCAA championship was Jimmy Vickers, not Charlie Coe. Jimmy Vickers was the second OU golfer to win the NCAA championship, the first be-

ing Walter Emery in 1933. Mr. Emery was the first NCAA champion from a school west of the Mississippi and also was a member of the 1936 United States Walker Cup team which beat the Great Britain/Ireland team at the famous Pine Valley Golf Club.

Other OU golfers in addition to Walter Emery who have represented the USA on Walker Cup Teams are Doug Martin, Hunter Haas, Anthony Kim and Charlie Coe. The legendary Mr. Coe played or served as captain on at least seven Walker Cup teams from 1949 to 1963. He was one of the greatest and most respected amateur golfers in history.

*Charlie Snider, '70 bba*  
*Norman, Oklahoma*

## A Moment to Remember

A few days before Christmas in 1983, I drove from Tulsa to Norman to pick up our son, Jeff, after his last final exam before the Christmas break. He was a sophomore, living in the ATO House, then on Elm Street. It was a cold, gray December day, and about half-way, snow began to fall; the closer I got to Norman the heavier the snow fell.

After a quick bite to eat at Pizza Hut, we walked over the campus to the Business School in Adams Hall where Jeff was to take his final, and we crossed the South Oval through the rapidly deepening snow. It was just past dusk, and in the early darkness the street lamps and strings of lights on shrubbery refracted through the atmosphere, thick with snowflakes, casting a charming luminous halo effect. Jeff and I were solitary wayfarers amidst the snow and the silence on the South Oval that evening, and the pristine Christmas card scene was amplified by the perfect quietness, broken only by the snow softly crunching underfoot.

While Jeff took his exam, I read a book that I had brought for just this purpose in the next door classroom. Sooner than I expected, Jeff appeared, brimming with confidence on his face. He told me how well prepared he was, and laughed as he told me of the stares and looks he got when he handed in his blue book and left so quickly.

Crunching our way back through the unspoiled snow across the South Oval,

huge snowflakes came down on our faces, and I thought of Julie Andrews singing of “snowflakes that fall on my nose and eyelashes.” My sense of these shared moments with Jeff was heightened, and I turned to look back at the enchanting, almost magical, luminescent winter scene quietly reflecting off the white snow; a haunting picture that was now behind us, yet everlasting.

Each autumn, Jeff returns to Tulsa, and we drive to Norman for at least one OU football game. He rolls his eyes and cracks wise when I always insist that we walk across the South Oval once again. And that’s all right, because he doesn’t really protest too much while acting like he is indulging me. More important, I know with absolute certainty that fifteen or twenty years from now, Jeff will take that same walk with his little Jacob, by then grown up, and tell him of that wondrous evening, “with your grandpa,” when snow was silently falling on the South Oval.

*Harvey Blumenthal, M.D.  
Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine  
OU-Tulsa  
Tulsa, Oklahoma*

### A Fitting Tribute

I rarely cry, but tears sprang to my eyes just moments ago as I finished [Lynette Lobban’s] wonderfully written story on the Dewey Selmon family in the just-arrived today *Sooner Magazine*. Like so many who did not know much about the Selmon dynasty except they were great football players, I resisted reading until that remarkable photo of the children walking together on the oval enticed me. Your lead drew me in. I read it straight through.

I had to sit down and let [her] know personally how powerfully [her] writing affected me. I had not intended to even open this issue until later, after I finish the pile of paperwork I stayed home from my sculpture studio to try to finish. I could not spare time to read, much less email the author. But I could not put it down, and I cannot *not* write [her] my congratulations for exceptional skills applied on behalf of a truly remarkable family.

*Lou Hale, '83 m.ed  
Stillwater, Oklahoma*

### Leaving a Legacy

I just read your article on the Selmons, and I’ve got to say that you absolutely nailed it!

I met Dewey when my husband and I hired him to do a renovation of our home. He took on the project with great passion, and I’m so glad to say that through it all, he became a good friend. Many people are awed by his football fame, which he



Brittany Stover

The Selmon kids on campus.

enjoyed talking about. But ask about his family, and that giant man just lights up! Clearly, this guy has his priorities set. We’ve been fortunate to meet most of his family, and they are all wonderful, compassionate, good human beings! Kathryn and Dewey certainly have much to be proud of.

There is a quote by Cesar Chavez, “True wealth is not measured in money or status or power. It is measured in the legacy we leave behind for those we love and those we inspire.” The Selmon Legacy is one of great wealth!

*Brigid Brink  
Norman, Oklahoma*

### Raised to Give to Others

Your story on the family of Dewey and Kathryn Selmon was so inspirational.

Thank you. It is a story that needed to be told.

Of course the Selmon brothers caught my attention as I continued to follow OU football after my graduation. Their story of coming to OU and then being such fine players was so impressive.

It was amazing to hear what the Dewey Selmon family has accomplished. They are to be commended. But what stirred my heart the most was to hear how Dewey and Kathryn raised their children to give to others. What a role model they are in parenting. They are truly helping to bring about the next “Greatest Generation.” It is clear that their faith is guiding them.

Thank you for bringing out stories that continue to make me proud to be a graduate of the University of Oklahoma.

*Vivian Cox, '66 bs  
Mineola, Texas*

### Norman’s Global Citizens

I just received my copy of *Sooner Magazine* and read [Lynette Lobban’s] absolutely *fabulous* story on Dewey and Kathryn Selmon and their family. What an inspiring story and what an outstanding example of the difference an individual (growing into a family of individuals) can make! Having lived in Norman for 20 years, of course I knew of the Selmons . . . and of Food for Friends . . . but never had heard the story of how that organization was begun through their efforts and commitment to service.

What a terrific family and what wonderful global citizens! Congratulations on a job well done!

*Vivian M. Glore, '00 m.br  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

### Shopping for Sooners

I would like to purchase a back issue of *Sooner Magazine*, Volume 27, Number 1, September 1954, and a 1955 *Sooner* yearbook. I have tried E-bay with not much luck. If any of your readers have either or both of these publications, I can be reached by email at *hugh-diana@comcast.net* or by phone at 505-869-0928.

*Diana Carter Dickson, '57 ed  
Bosque Farms, New Mexico*