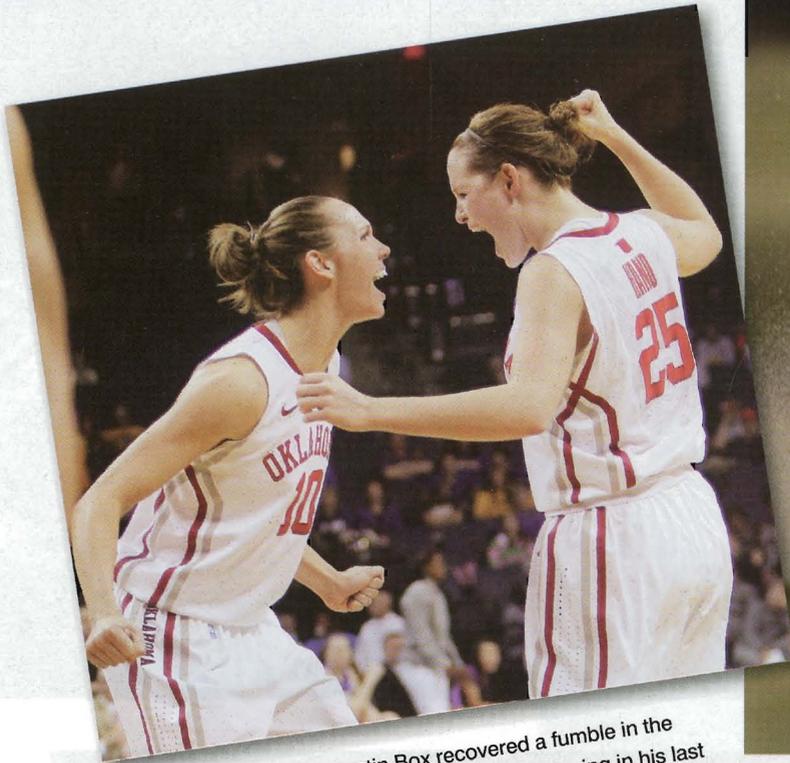
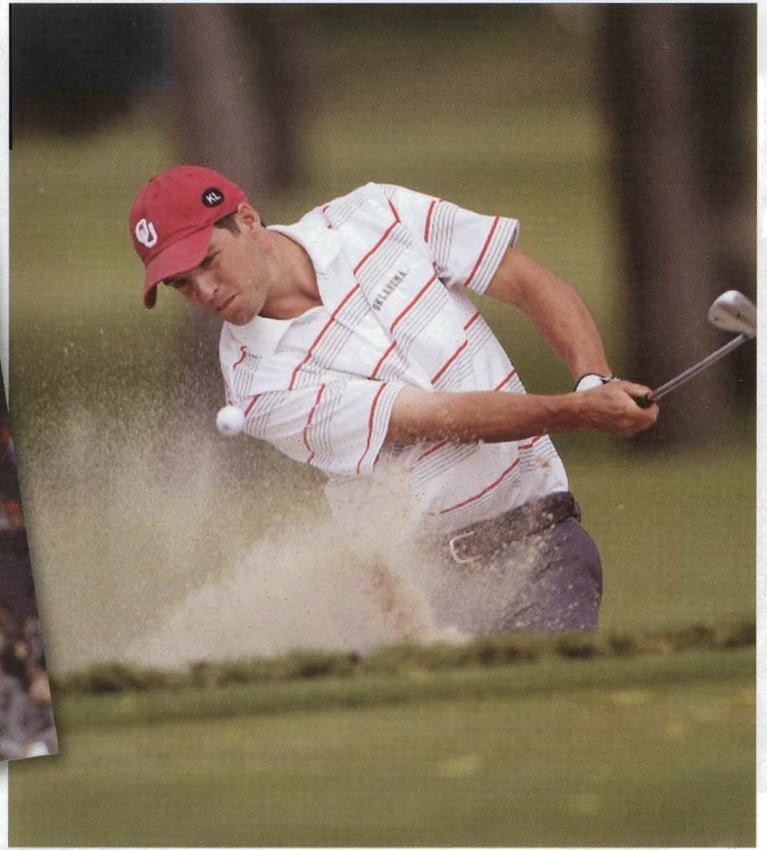




**SOONER SPORTS**  
**2010-11:**  
**THE YEAR**



AT LEFT: When the late Austin Box recovered a fumble in the Big 12 Championship, no one realized he was playing in his last game as a Sooner. (Ty Russell) ABOVE: Carlee Roethlisberger, left, and Whitney Hand celebrate the season that took Sherri Coale's women's team to the NCAA's Sweet 16. (Ty Russell)



Riley Pumphrey is a team regular and a star in the classroom, just named an All-American Scholar. (OU Athletics Media Relations)

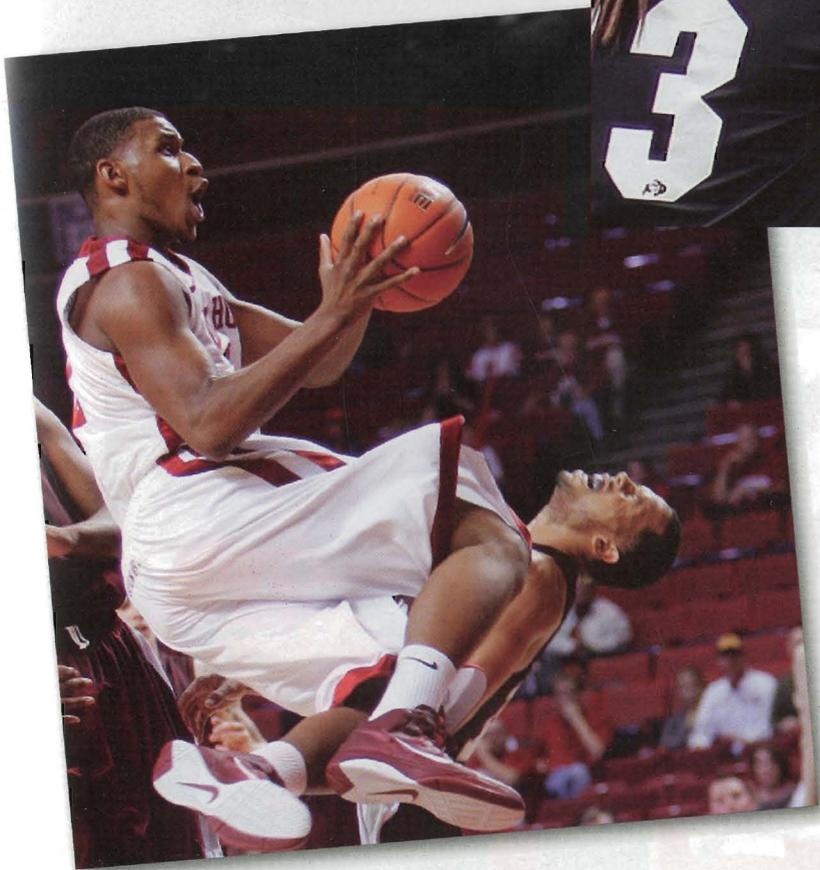
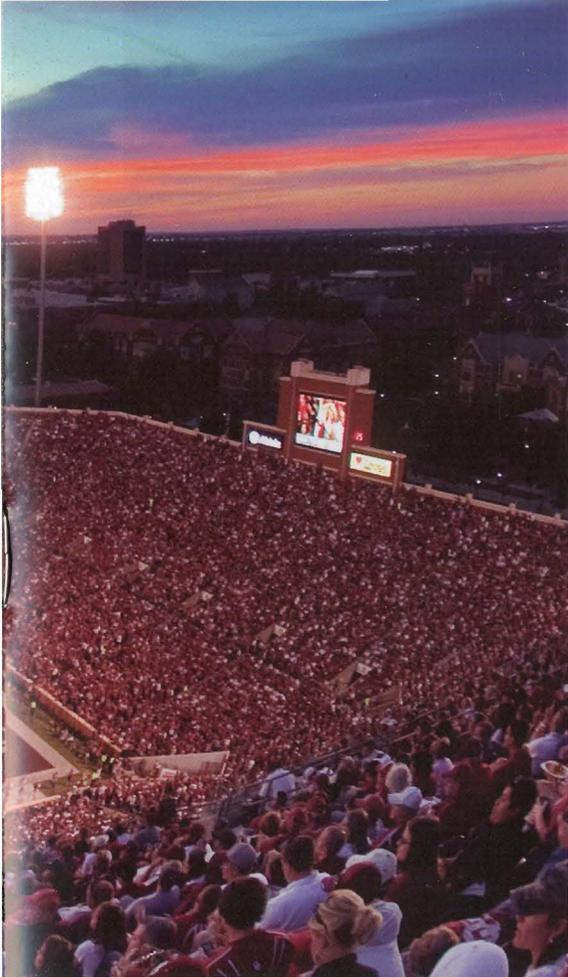
**S**ports writers get bylines above the story. Sports columnists even have their pictures planted amid controversial comments. Both types sit in press boxes. Sports photographers? Not so much. Largely anonymous, they run up and down sidelines in the heat and cold. They stand in the rain one day and struggle to protect their equipment from the blowing dust the next. Slam-dunking basketball players land in their laps. Linemen tackle them on the sidelines. They twist their bodies into weird angles to get the shot—but if they get *the* shot, it's all worth it.

The various venues for Sooner athletics play host to dozens of photographers, many of them freelancers in friendly competition to capture the Crimson and Cream at their finest moments. Once a year, OU Athletics Media Relations pays tribute to these intrepid “shooters” by posting the 100 best images online in the newsletter “Boomer Blast.”

A representative number of the best of 2010-11 have been selected for this *Sooner Magazine* look back at the year that was. *continued*

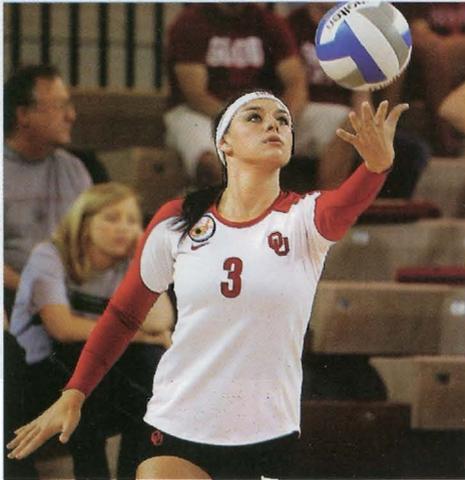
# IN PICTURES





CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT:  
The sun sets over The Gaylord Family  
– Oklahoma Memorial Stadium.  
(Stacey West) Sam Howell delivers a  
header against Colorado. (Ty Russell)  
OU's Steven Pledger makes a North  
Carolina Central player pay for getting  
in his way. (Ty Russell) Whitney Ritchie  
pumps her fist after a scoring point at  
the Headington Family Tennis Center.  
(OU Athletics Media Relations) Mookie  
Salaam points to the sky prior to his  
heat at the Big 12 Championships.  
(OU Athletics Media Relations)

*continued*



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:**

The Sooners give Coach Bob Stoops a Gatorade bath following their win over Nebraska in the Big 12 Championship. (Ty Russell) OU wrestler Matt Lester sticks his opponent during the Beauty and the Beast shared meet with the women's gymnastics team. (Ty Russell) Coach Patty Gasso congratulates Dani Dobbs as she rounds the bases at Marita Hynes Field. (Ty Russell) Kylie Cowan serves the volleyball against Texas A&M. (OU Athletics Media Relations)





**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:**

OU's rowing team is in perfect sync on the Oklahoma River. (OU Athletics Media Relations) The women gymnasts are all emotion. (Ty Russell) Coach Golloway welcomes youngsters during OU's annual baseball Youth Day. (Ty Russell) Coach Spates ends 18 years at the head of the OU wrestling program. (Ty Russell)



BY LYNETTE