

Sports for all students

TWO great strides toward realization of an ideal—participation in sports by every student in the University—were made this spring with the completion of the new men's swimming pool and the blossoming of the new golf course and intramural field into a beautiful recreation park.

This spring, for the first time, the potential beauty in the landscaping of the golf course began to make itself evident, and the grass greens reached a stage of velvet perfection in spite of the vagaries of Oklahoma weather.

Rolling acres of green bermuda grass, indented by small, spring-fed stream and spotted with pine, cedar, elm and hackberry trees, low-growing shrubbery and all surrounded with an artistic native stone fence—provide a new beauty spot for the campus that will grow in charm every year. Work began three years ago, but this spring was the first that the golf course was open for use.

It was fifteen years ago that Bennie Owen walked about the present site of the Recreation Park, east of the Stadium, with thoughts of a student playground revolving in his mind. This year, Mr. Owen has spent many happy hours on the 65-acre intramural field and golf course, seeing the students enjoy the new facilities for healthful recreation.

Barely able to obtain the land itself, with the help of interested alumni and faculty members, the University was unable to employ a professional expert to lay out a golf course. But Mr. Owen couldn't be stopped by a problem like that.

"I didn't know much about the job, but with the aid of golfing books and direction manuals, I laid out the nine holes," he recalled with a smile. With WPA help, grass and trees were planted, and the difficult job of building grass greens on arid Oklahoma soil was launched.

Last year a stone fence around the park was begun by the WPA, and all but a small section was completed.

Baseball diamonds and touch football fields were placed on the west side of the acreage, leaving fifty acres for the golf course. During the fall of 1936, a dam was built on Bait creek, which runs across the east end of the golf course, and the entire bed of the creek was cleaned and widened, and two stone foot-bridges were built. There is now a sizeable lake, and picnic grounds are being arranged at convenient points.

Popularity of the Recreation Park has

increased day by day. Softball grounds are crowded every afternoon in favorable weather. Touch football is popular in the fall. Golf is becoming constantly more popular.

Incidentally, golf in the student atmosphere is an inexpensive game quite different from the "country club" variety. A pair of slacks and any old sweater are quite fashionable for costume. Of course there are no caddies or other extras of that sort. And it's a healthful game for many students who have not the time to keep in training for more strenuous sports.

The new men's swimming pool is a long-dreamed-of means of giving more students a chance at intramural sports. It is a regulation size pool, 25 yards long and 8 lanes wide, so that it is usable for intercollegiate swim contests as well as for regular day-by-day use of students.

The pool has many modern improvements such as steel diving boards adjustable to the divers' weights, non-slip tile floor as a safety feature, steam heating of water, and seats for 500 spectators at one end of the pool.

The water in the pool is continuously purified by a re-circulating system. With this system it is not necessary to shut down the pool every few days for cleaning, and replenishing with heated water.

Temperature of the water is constantly kept between 72 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

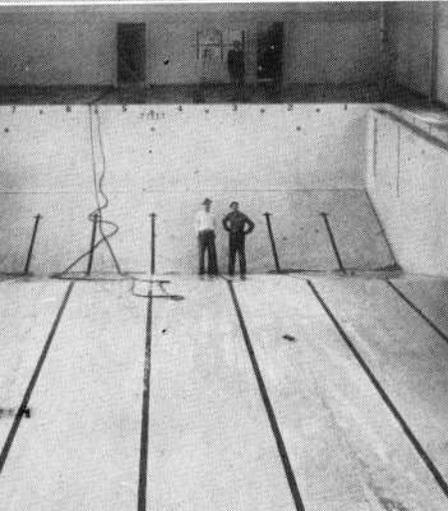
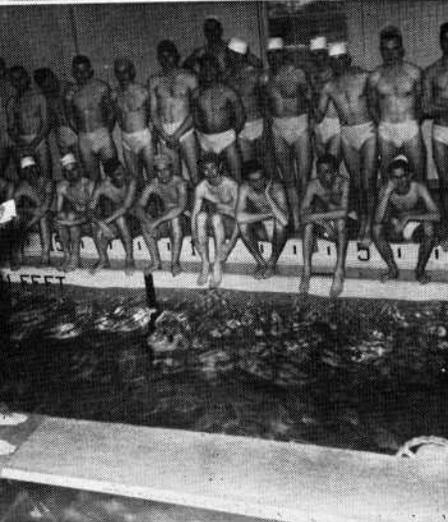
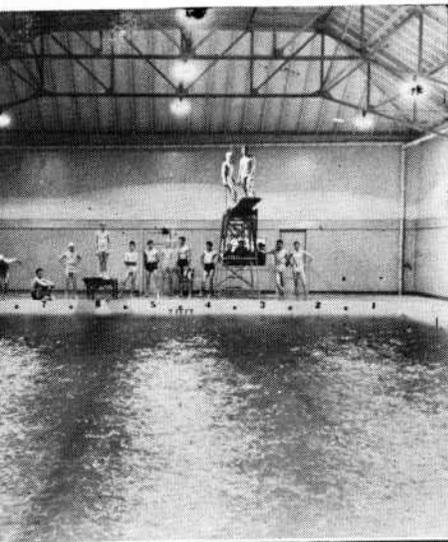
Sediment which settles on the floor and walls of the pool overnight is removed by a suction pool cleaner which contains a hair and lint catcher and operates much like an ordinary domestic vacuum cleaner except that the dirt-carrying agency is water instead of air.

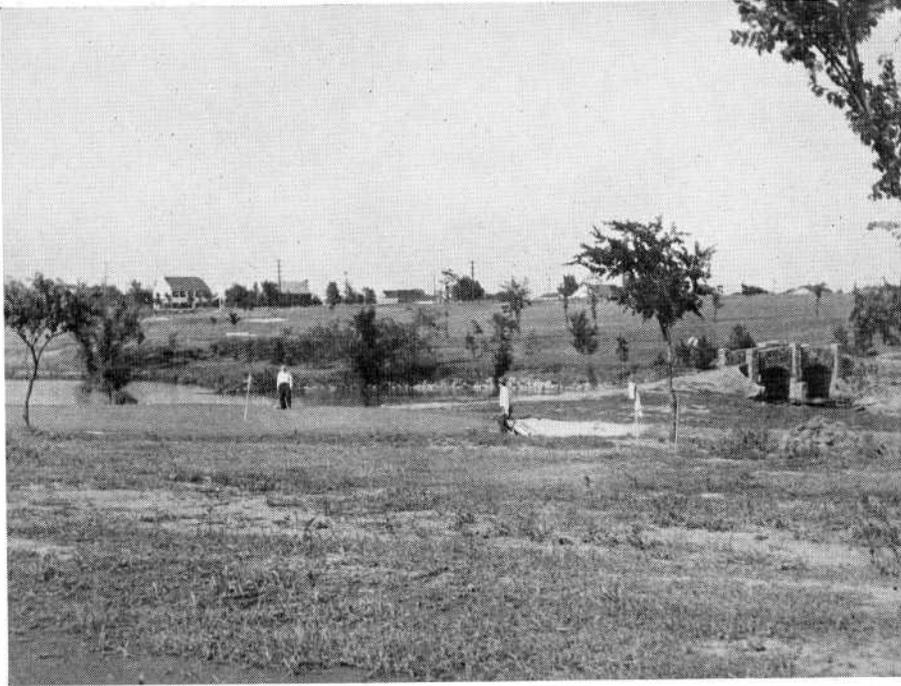
Antiseptic foot baths in which each swimmer is required to step before going into the pool are located at the door of each shower room to prevent infection.

Edward T. Kennedy, of Columbia University, New York, who is editor of Spaulding's Official Intercollegiate Swimming Guide, wrote the following letter of congratulations to Mr. Owen when the pool was completed:

"The University of Oklahoma is to be congratulated on the completion of its standard-size swimming pool. A natatorium of such excellence is important in every major institution of learning. It should be very popular among Oklahoma students and faculty members and should bring to your campus competitive sports of the highest calibre."

L. W. St. John, director of athletics at Ohio State University, termed the O. U.





Above is a view of the new Recreation Park, showing one of the fine golf greens, the lake and the picturesque stone bridge. On the left and right are pictures of the new Men's Swimming pool. Top view on the left shows the pool at night; second picture, Swimming Instructor Bruce Drake calls the roll; antiseptic footbaths, and below, the pool as it appeared under construction. On the right are shown the seats for 500 spectators, a dive off the low board, recirculating equipment in the engine room, and Instructor Drake and Intramural Director Ben Owen talking it over from the low diving board.

swimming pool "one of the finest aquatic plants to be found anywhere."

Although the pool was built primarily for intramural sports and physical education classes, the fact that it will be available for use of the varsity swimming team has raised hopes that O. U. will forge ahead in this sport.

Although they have never before had a pool of their own to practice in, Sooner swimmers have competed in the Big Six conference swimming meets in seven of the last eight years, winning nine firsts and scoring a grand total of 82½ points.

This is a remarkable record considering the fact that the Sooner swimmers always had to go into the conference meets with insufficient preparation and without experience of previous dual mets.

Oklahoma swimmers won the Big Six all-around swimming championship more times than any other school during the seven years Sooner teams entered the Big Six meets. Big Murray MacDonald won it in 1931 and Jack Davis in 1934 and 1936.

Bennie Owen is glad to see a varsity team get a break, but his chief interest now is to see that every man student in the University gets a chance at athletics of some kind, even though lack of time or ability keeps him from going out for a varsity team.

The new Recreation Park had the swimming pool are giving this chance to the average student.

Officers are elected

Neil R. Johnson, '15, '17law, Norman, was re-elected president of the Board of Trustees of the Stadium-Union Memorial Fund at the annual Commencement meeting. Other officers, also re-elected, are Dr. W. B. Bizzell, vice-president; R. W. Hutto, '10, treasurer, and T. M. Beard, '21, manager. Members of the Union staff were reappointed for another year and Mr. Hutto, E. R. Kraetli and Dr. E. D. Meacham were elected to the Board of Managers of the Union.

Dunlap heads college

C. C. Dunlap, '28ms, '29ma, has been appointed president of the Eastern Oklahoma College at Wilburton by the Board of Regents of the school. Mr. Dunlap succeeds Ohland Morton, '29ma, acting president who resigned to complete work for a Ph. D. degree at the University of Texas.

Recently assistant to Houston Wright, state NYA director, Mr. Dunlap has taught in Oklahoma public schools and at Southeastern State Teachers College, Durant.

Morrison acting president

W. B. Morrison, '25ma, professor of history at Southwestern State Teachers College, Durant, was appointed acting president of the school when the State Board of Education removed Mrs. Kate Galt Zaneis.

