



Sophomore sprinter Preston Bagley works as hard at his books (above) as he does at the track (right). A pre-med major, Bagley turned in a perfect 4.0 in 18 hours for the fall semester.



By PAUL V. GALLOWAY

Whoever Heard Scholar

these Sooners are ignoring
stereotype of the

SITTING on the bench just before the last game of the season began the football captain suddenly burst into tears. The coach was aghast. "What on earth do you have to cry about?" he marveled. "You're the captain of the best team we've had in years. You're handsome, you're rich and you've been voted the most popular guy in the senior class. What's wrong, man?" "Oh, coach," sobbed the player, "if I could only read and write."

Like the absent-minded professor and the husband-hunting coed, the "big dumb athlete" traditionally has been the butt of bad jokes; but if the truth be known, there are more bad jokes than there are dumb athletes. The stereotype of the hulking, weak-minded athlete who struggles through Juggling 112 and Reindeer Culture 220 to remain eligible is not only false but also unfair to the many scholar-athletes who bring home the grade points semester after semester. There are few athletes incapable of making it through college under their own mental power, and an overwhelming percentage earn a B.A. or a B.S. as well as an "O."

Slightly more than 90 per cent of those sophomores who play Big Red football (the only sport for which such a record is kept) receive diplomas. This is considerably higher than the all-school percentage for sophomores. And the footballers do it in curriculums as diverse and demanding as those ex-

of -Athletes?

the old big, dumb athlete



High hurdler Mike Hewitt is always fighting for the top, both on the team and in the classroom.

perienced by any other campus group. On the first and alternate eevens of this year's Orange Bowl squad there were majors in business (5), accounting (2), education (3), engineering (3), pre-medicine (2), pre-dentistry (1), pre-law (1), architecture (1), petroleum land management (1), physics (1) and drama (1).

Financial aid to athletes is a fact of life in major institutions; but while athletic "dollarships" get all the publicity, the administration and the athletic department of the University of Oklahoma are putting an emphasis on the "scholar" in "scholarship."

O.U. has about 300 boys in its intercollegiate program. Port Robertson, who in addition to serving as freshman football coach and associate wrestling coach is academic counselor to Sooner athletes, contends, "Most good athletes are good students also. There are exceptions, of course, but as a rule we have few scholastic problems with the good athlete."

To prove his point, Coach Robertson can produce a ledger which contains the scholastic records of all athletes. "I can cover the name of the boy, look only at the grades he is making and tell you in nine cases out of ten what kind of an athlete he is. The top boys generally will have better-than-average grades."

Some do exceptionally well. Two of the University's outstanding scholar-athletes

are members of the track team and room together in one of the athletic dormitories. Preston Bagley, sophomore sprinter from Midwest City, sped to a perfect record of all-A's for the fall semester. His roommate, Mike Hewitt, sophomore hurdler from Bartlesville, ran the fall scholastic course in 3.53. (4.0 is an all-A average, 3.0 is all B's, etc.)

The two are no flash-in-the-grade-card scholars. Last year Bagley had a 3.94 and was the recipient of the Jay A. Myers scholarship trophy awarded annually to the top scholar among freshman athletes. A pre-med student, he made his marks in 18 hours of German, zoology, philosophy and government.

HEWITT, a member of the President's Leadership Class as a freshman, is majoring in chemical engineering and has had grade averages of 3.72 and 3.86 in two previous semesters. His first semester grades this term were made in mathematics, physics, engineering graphics and chemistry. This semester he is enrolled in three engineering and two chemistry courses, a scholastic pentathlon of sorts.

Naturally time is of the essence to track men, and it is as precious off the track as it is in competition. With a sizable amount of time devoted to workouts and with class days missed traveling to and from meets (the track squad misses more school days

than any other athletic team), finding time to study is a major concern.

"It's a matter of self-discipline," Bagley says. "There is still plenty of time to study in spite of all the practices and trips and meets. It simply requires taking advantage of the time available. I'm accustomed to combining studying and athletics—I've been doing it since I was in junior high school. In fact, I believe athletics helps my studies rather than hinders them."

Hewitt seconds the notion. "I enjoy competing in athletics. And competing certainly doesn't harm my studies. Since track takes up so much time, I can't afford to waste time, or to let down in either track or my studies."

Bagley and Hewitt will get no argument from Coach Robertson on the subject. "It's no sacrifice to be an athlete; it's a privilege," he says. "I know that an athlete must devote a good deal of time to his sport. I also realize that often he is so physically tired after a practice that it is difficult to study, but there's still much time wasted that could be used constructively. Most people squander the equivalent of five 8-hour days a week—lost simply through misuse."

The two trackmen constructively use as much time as they can during the week-days while the track season is in full sprint. "I've found it hard to study on a trip and on the weekend of a meet," Bagley explains.

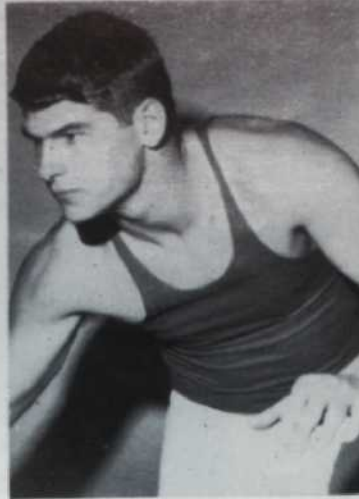
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Tennis Captain Paul Gregory



Sophomore Fullback David Voiles



Wrestler Wayne Baughman



Senior Center Harvey Chaffin

WHOEVER HEARD OF SCHOLAR-ATHLETES?

athletes do not necessarily make their best grades during the off-season semester

"I usually take along some books, but I'm too keyed up to get much studying done."

"I have a schedule I try to follow," Hewitt says of his study habits. "Preston has some early morning classes, and I get up when he does and go to the library. I study better in the morning; my mind is fresher then. I go to the library whenever I have an hour between classes. Since we work out in the afternoon every day, I wait until 6:30 in the evening and then head back to the library and stay until it closes."

Bagley approaches studying a bit differently—by not approaching the library. "There are too many distractions at the library for me. I can shut myself up in my room at the dorm and accomplish more. And I sometimes go to my grandmother's house in Norman and study there."

The scholar-athlete must fight fatigue from daily workouts. "We begin working out in September, and we build up gradually," Bagley explains. "By the time track season starts, I'm in good shape, and I don't get exhausted easily or often." When he is too exhausted to study, Bagley has a novel solution to the problem: he doesn't study. "Nothing can be accomplished by studying when you're extremely tired. It's better to rest and try when you're fresh."

Bagley has reduced the number of hours he is taking from his 18-hour fall semester load to 15 hours for the spring term. "This is my first year of varsity competition, and I don't want to overload myself. I can tell better after this semester just how much, if at all, track will affect my grades."

Track Coach Bill Carroll doesn't think an athlete necessarily will make better grades during the off-season semester. "There doesn't seem to be a general rule. I've had some boys make better grades during the track season semester despite all the time missed from classes. One of the reasons is that the challenge stimulates them, and they enjoy responding."

Several football players responded to the challenge during the fall semester—practices, a hot Big Eight race and a bowl game notwithstanding. Five starters were listed on the dean's honor roll for having better-than-B averages. They were center and co-captain Wayne Lee, an architecture major; guard Newt Burton, a pre-dental major;

tackle Duane Cook, mechanical engineering; quarterback Monte Deere, pre-law, and end Rick McCurdy, pre-med. David Voiles, sophomore fullback, led the squad with a 3.67 average.

Three other athletes besides Bagley had perfect 4.0 averages. Paul Gregory, tennis team captain, completed a scholastic grand slam by acing every course for the fourth straight semester. Among his courses were German, Russian and mathematics.

Swimmer Rex Ball, a history major, again had a 4.0 semester, and freshman golfer Bill Heston had all A's on his card for an auspicious first semester in college.

Wayne Baughman, NCAA 191-pound

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Academically, Rex Ball, a junior swimmer with a 4.0, could not have had a better fall semester.

The Night People

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For the part-time students, completion of the MBA program generally takes three years. A total of 36 hours of course work is required for the degree, with at least one course in each of the six major departments of the College of Business Administration—accounting, economics, business management, finance, marketing and statistics.

"The presence of professional people in

Scholar-Athletes

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wrestling champion and recent winner of the Big Eight tournament's outstanding wrestler award, led the wrestlers in grades and again made the dean's honor roll. Center Harvey Chaffin was high grade point man for Coach Bob Stevens' basketball team with a 3.20 average.

First baseman Don Finkenbinder and pitcher Doyle Tunnell led the baseball squad with honor roll caliber grade averages.

The track team, last year's Big Eight outdoor champions, consistently brings in high grade averages and now has thirteen men with B averages or better. Noteworthy scholastic performances came from shot-putter Mike Miers, 3.80 in history; hurdler Steve Morelock, 3.29 in journalism; middle distance runner Walt Mizell, 3.19 in government, and co-captain Dick Neff, 3.0 in engineering physics.

Combining athletics and academics in an exemplary fashion is nothing new. Just go down the list of Sooner alumni who excelled on the playing field as well as in the classroom. To name a very few, they are men like former basketball stars William F. Martin, '38bus, secretary-treasurer of Phillips Petroleum, and Victor Holt Jr., '28bus, vice president of Goodyear Tire and Rubber; trackman Dillon Anderson, '28bus, prominent Houston attorney; footballer Hal L. Muldrow Jr., '27bs, former 45th division commander and now state senator; polo player Marion W. Hefley, '27eng, a chief engineer with the state highway department; tennis stalwarts J. Claude Monnet, '20ba, '22Law, and Paul G. Darrough Sr., '13ba, '15Law, both Oklahoma City attorneys, and the late geologist Pollok (Polly) Wallace, '27ba, '35ms, who earned his letters in football and wrestling and a Phi Beta Kappa key.

These Sooners must have broken the "big, dumb athlete" mold years ago—when no one was looking.

our classes enriches and enlivens the discussions considerably," says Dr. Dennis M. Crites, professor of marketing who teaches a night course in sales management. Other instructors in the MBA program hold similar views.

Dr. O. D. Westfall, David Ross Boyd professor of accounting, feels that "it definitely tones up the class to have people with practical experience making contributions to the discussion. Since my class is small (10 students), it can be conducted in seminar style, where everyone can talk freely."

James M. Murphy, professor of finance, has 60 students in his section, but he is still keenly aware of the presence of career men in the classroom. "There are several geologists and engineers in my class. As a whole, students in the class have had more undergraduate training in mathematics than the average group. The diversity of backgrounds makes the class more interesting."

Professor of business communications A. L. Cosgrove, who teaches advanced report writing, explains, "The part-time students can associate what they learn in class with their daily experiences in the business world. Because the material is so meaningful to them, they are apt to be very attentive. On the other hand, full-time students are in a position to see the same instructional material from a broader perspective, since they are planning for the future rather than the present."

The evening program was instituted in 1961, after a period of intensive study by

the College of Business Administration's long-range planning committee. The result was an answer to six years of requests from business firms and military establishments throughout Oklahoma for a night-time MBA program at O.U.

Committee members, all still at O.U., were Dr. William H. Keown, David Ross Boyd professor of business management; Dr. Jim E. Reese, David Ross Boyd professor of economics; Dr. Ronald B. Shuman, research professor of business management, and Westfall.

But even while establishing the MBA program to meet the needs of professional management people, the business college has been quick to point out that graduate schooling does not assure administrative competence, just as business employment itself does not necessarily result in personal development and preparation for executive leadership.

"It is apparent, however," Associate Dean Childress contends, "that through business study a qualified college or university graduate can become more knowledgeable in the disciplines underlying business operations and considerably more skillful in facing complex administrative situations and making decisions about them. He has genuinely more understanding of both the internal, human and social environment of the business firm and the economic, political and international forces shaping the external environment in which it must operate."

The Headhunters on the Campus

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difficulty finding applicants for "problem jobs"—such as a recent inquiry for a business manager for the state mental hospital at Taft. The applicant had to be a Negro with a business degree.

Mrs. Barbara Ballentine, who is in charge of teacher placement, finds a similar problem in finding teachers who wish to interview for teaching positions on Indian reservations in Arizona and New Mexico. The teacher employment situation in general is a very good one for the graduates. In some fields—home economics, women's physical education, library science—the teachers can pretty well have their pick of jobs, and only social science teachers seem plentiful.

Engineers also have a wide choice. Dr. William E. Carson, dean emeritus of the College of Engineering and director of engineering placement, reports that this year's engineering graduate will be able to choose from six or seven job offers. The demand for accountants is second only to that for

engineers. Geologists, alternately sought after and ignored as petroleum industry fluctuates, are once again being courted by the oil companies.

It seems unlikely that supply and demand in employment will ever come out even. Business, industry and government will continue the endless search for quality in the right quantity, and the institutions that do the best job of keeping pace educationally with the employers' needs will also do the best job of placing their graduates. But part of the responsibility for seeing that the colleges and universities keep pace will rest even more heavily with the employers themselves. Many of them recognize this fact.

"Too often business and industry ignore the colleges," a representative of a large industry contends. "We don't care what they are doing or what they need until we need something from them—then we can't understand why the colleges can't give us exactly what we want."