

# CASINO '88

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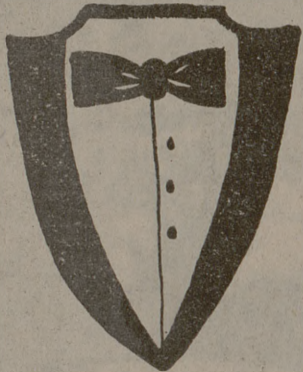
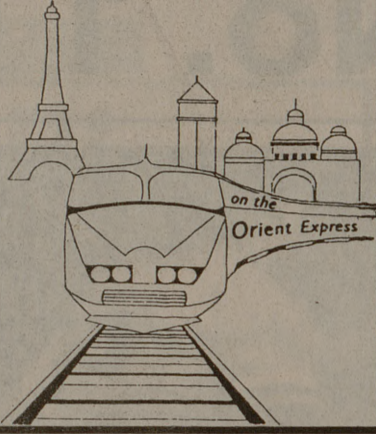
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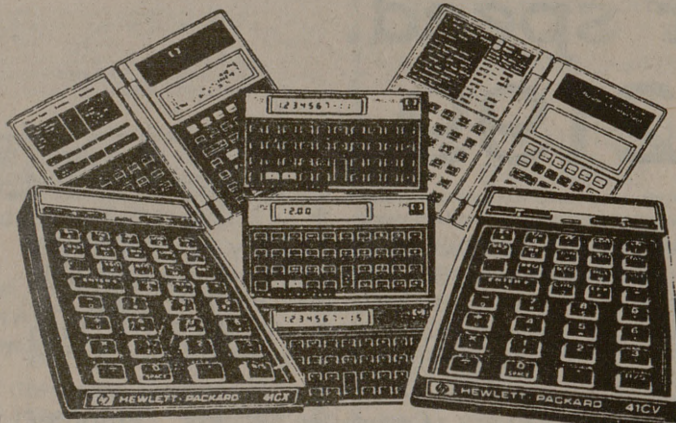
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# Okies dominate big collegiate sports

Texans love to brag and some people say we wear ten-gallon hats because they're the only ones that will fit our unusually large heads. And it ain't no secret that Texans love sports. Check that — we love to win.

And as everyone knows, everything in Texas is BIG. We have big cars, big cities, big buildings and big egos. Texas also boasts some of the largest universities in the country including Texas A&M and the University of Texas, both in the top 10.

Despite our passion for glory in

the athletic arena and our hugeness, we are not the true giants of collegiate athletics.

We are big, but it is our friendly little neighbors to the north who slay Texas and the other states in collegiate athletic competition.

The state of Oklahoma claims teams in the nation's elite in all three of the major spectator sports. Oklahoma had a team playing for the NCAA football national championship, a baseball team that is ranked No. 1 in all of the nation's polls and a basketball team that has made it into the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tourney.

Few states, if any, have ever dominated the collegiate athletic scene to this extent.

There is no question that Oklahoma is more than just "OK" when it comes to sports.

By comparison, the Sooner state is smack in the middle of the other states, ranking 25th. It doesn't have exotic beaches, movie stars, legal gambling or great skiing.

Agriculture is still a principal industry in the state.

Oklahoma may seem a bit less sophisticated than many other states, but its Sooners are always in the heat of the chase for the national title in football.

Its Cowboys (Oklahoma State) are perennial powers in baseball, and most recently the Sooner hoopsters have made it into the elite quartet of the nation's best college basketball teams.

How do they do it? Certainly, they have their share of homegrown talent but a lot of it is imported.

Maybe it's the state's top tourist attractions like the Will Rogers Memorial or the National Cowboy Hall of Fame that attract athletes the caliber of Brian Bosworth away from Texas to Oklahoma.

Maybe their success is due to the Okie simpleness.

The Sooner football team was criticized for its run, run, run and run some more offense but was success-

ful until its final game. The baseball team strength is no — big boys who hit HARD.

And the Sooner basketball also has been criticized for unscientific run-and-gun play. But the Sooners proved were more than just hot dogs they put down Villanova in the regional finals of the NCAA tourney.

Or the the secret of Okie success might lie in the state's "Labor conquers all" thing.

Whatever those Okies have it seems to be working over the year.

The Texas A&M baseball played Oklahoma State tough the Cowboys pulled the game extra innings.

Oklahoma State will hold on to their No. 1 ranking seem headed for a season as full as the Sooners football and basketball teams.

So, when people say Okie will win the NCAA tourney can I say except, "Okie-Dokie"



Curtis L. Culberson  
Sports viewpoint

## Disgruntled Downs skips Dallas minicamp

IRVING (AP) — Disgruntled free safety Mike Downs, who claims his backup will be making more money than he will in the 1988 season, stayed away from the Dallas Cowboys' veterans minicamp Monday.

The camp is voluntary and Downs is not subject to a fine.

Downs, who led the team in tackles with 86 last year, had not been able to reach an agreement with Cowboys Vice President Joe Bailey after several meetings.

"The Cowboys aren't acting like they want me, and I think I'm pretty important to the defense," Downs said. "Just look at the tackles I had to make last season."

Downs made \$250,000 last year and said he has been offered far less than the \$325,000 backup Victor Scott will make in 1988. Scott, a former second round draft pick in 1984, is on the final season of a five-year contract.

"I'm the defensive quarterback and I should be paid accordingly," Downs said.

Downs had four interceptions in 1987, second only to five by cornerback Everson Walls. Downs also

was third in passes defended behind Walls and rookie Ron Francis.

Coach Tom Landry said Downs' contract status "complicates things."

He added that right now at safety, "Vince Albritton is our most aggressive guy and Scott is also aggressive. We'll just have to see what happens, but the safety is open just like other jobs on this team."

Other free agents besides Downs included quarterback Paul McDonald and linebacker Steve DeOssie, who attended the camp.

The Cowboys will work through Wednesday in a series of meetings, timed runs and weightlifting tests at Valley Ranch. The theme for the off season is "Blueprint for Victory."

One session Monday included a presentation by biomechanist Dr. Stan Plagenhoef on the "best anatomical positions for creating high levels of impact on the football field."

The Tuesday and Wednesday sessions will be similar to the players' in-season schedule of classroom meetings and on-field practices.

Dallas will hold a second veterans minicamp May 3-6.

## 25 applicants seek UT coaching post

AUSTIN (AP) — Twenty-five people have applied for the head basketball coaching job at the University of Texas, and another dozen have been recommended to UT athletic officials.

Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds made the names available to the *Austin American-Statesman* after the newspaper requested the information under the state Open Records Law and rulings by the attorney general.

The applicants included 10 college head coaches, eight college assistants, two junior college coaches, a high school coach, one high school assistant, two from Puerto Rico's summer professional league and one former coach now in private business.

A few of the better-known applicants for the job from which Coach Bob Weltlich was fired earlier this month included Arkansas-Little Rock Coach Mike Newell, former Tulane coach Ned Fowler and San Jose State's Bill Perry.

Prominent assistant coaches applying included Kentucky's

James Dickey, Maryland's Bradley and Houston's Bob Ryberry, a former head coach of Southwest Texas State.

Bruce Stewart of Middle Tennessee State and Rick Hulse of Marshall also applied.

South Carolina assistant coach Payne penned a six-page handwritten letter to Dodds, while Abilene Christian Head Coach Mike Martin said he could take Texas to the promised land.

Coaches who have been recommended for the job but have not applied included Southwest Texas State's Gene Kruger, Paul Peak, New Mexico State's Gene Colson, Purdue's Gene Kruger, Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, Kansas State's Larry Brown, Kansas State's Kruger, Auburn's Sonny Smith, Xavier's Pete Gillen, Texas Antonio's Ken Burmeister, Paul Westhead of Loyola Marymount.

Robert Hughes of Fort Worth Dunbar, former UT-Arlington coach Snake LeGrande and former high school coach Oliver Williams also were recommended.

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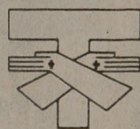
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P. O. Box 5038  
Bryan, TX 77805-5038

\* Registration by mail only  
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