

What's up, Pokes!

It's another bright week in Stillwater as we celebrate Homecoming! Alumni and the whole community are coming together, and it's an exciting time for OSU sports too. The men's basketball team had a big win over SMU in a charity game—a perfect way to kick off their season. Cowgirl Equestrian also came out on top with a 12-6 victory against Baylor at home. Both tennis teams are performing solidly at the Norman Future tournament, and Cowboy Golf recently secured a win at the Jackson T. Stephens Cup. However, Cowboy Football suffered another loss, putting them at 3-5. This team hasn't had a losing season in over 15 years, so everyone's hopeful that this week's first night game of the season will help them turn things around.

In NIL news, Duke freshman Cooper Flagg, expected to be the #1 pick in the 2025 NBA Draft, secured a sponsorship deal with Gatorade. He's the first male college basketball player to sign with the sports drink. Reflecting on the partnership, Cooper shared, "This has been a big year for me on and off the court, and Gatorade has been there the whole way. From being named the Gatorade Best Male Player of the Year to now officially joining the team, it's been surreal to have my name mentioned with some of the biggest names in basketball." As Cooper's season with Duke begins, he's hopeful this will be a big step toward his NBA dream.

Oklahoma football, meanwhile, is having a tough season with quarterback questions, a lack of first-string receivers, and the challenges of joining the SEC. OU legend Barry Switzer voiced concerns about the challenges Oklahoma faces in recruiting compared to a large state like Texas. He also shared reservations about the influence of NIL on college sports, a sentiment shared by many of the older generation.

In other NIL news, BYU is in the running to secure the #1 high school recruit of 2025, AJ Dybantsa, a 6'9" player from Brockton, Massachusetts, with a projected NIL package of \$4 million. With the backing of the Utah Jazz owner, BYU hopes to land the commitment, even though he may only be there for one year.

NIL continues to make a positive impact on athletes and communities across the country, and here at OSU, we're excited to see how it can shape our future. If you're a student at OSU, don't miss out on getting involved in this movement!

Upcoming for the Cowboys...Cowboy Tennis heads to the Fayetteville Tournament; Cowgirl Golf competes in the TCU Charles Schwab Women's Challenge; Cowboy Basketball plays Southern Nazarene tonight at GIA; Cowgirl Soccer faces Cincinnati in the Big 12 Championship in Kansas City tomorrow; Cowgirl Equestrian takes on #1 Auburn at home Friday; and both Cross Country teams compete in the Big 12 Championships this week. Finally, Cowboy Football's night game at BPS kicks off at 6:00 PM on Saturday!

Come out and support your Cowboys and Cowgirls! As always, loyal and true—Go Pokes!