

Coach Switzer Says He's 'Calling Own Plays' Now



Coach Barry Switzer

"I'm calling my own plays...It's my fourth quarter," said former OU football coach and former coach of the Dallas Cowboys, Barry Switzer, last week.

Wearing a Superbowl Ring, Switzer told the difference between coaching pro and college ball.

"When you recruit a (college) player, you have them for life," the former

coach said. "You treat them as your own children."

Switzer said he "takes great pride" in being the OU coach. He developed "hundreds and hundreds of relationships."

Some of them call every day. "Most need help or advice," he noted. "You spend 355 days a year, trying to make them productive citizens."

In "pro ball," Switzer said he told them, "Don't fumble," don't get tackled, "They didn't listen, or I would have another Super Bowl Ring."

Professional players might be traded off. "I might never see them again," he said.

The hours were bad at both jobs, he revealed.

The former coach told of going to Nebraska, to "help out" Tom Osborne in his U.S. Senate race.

He also told about Jerry Jones calling him to coach the Dallas team.

He said one of his kids called and told him that USA Today said Jones was going to ask him to coach the Cowboys. He didn't think there was anything to the story at the time.

"Then the phone rings and it's Jerry Jones."

Switzer said Jones told him to come talk about it. "I told him I'm not coming down for an interview." Jones told him he had the job.

"Jerry handled me well. He treated me well," the speaker said.

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State Treasurer Says Logjam In Legislature Due to Surplus Money



State Treasurer Scott Meacham

The just-ended session of the State Legislature was called "a great session for the taxpayers of Oklahoma," but State Treasurer Scott Meacham said the long budget logjam was due more over "what to do with the extra money," than a shortage of funding.

Meacham spoke at the June 6 club meeting.

"The state's economy is booming," he said. "It's growing faster than any other state."

The state budget in 2003 was \$4.2 billion, and this year was \$5.5 billion, he said. But it was "easier to make the budget" when there was not enough money, than now, Meacham added.

The surplus brought "different ideological debates over how to spend the money...Too many politicians spend too much time worrying about their next election," in his opinion, he said.

The state treasurer, who "manages and invests all state monies," said he took the job at the urging of the Governor, after Robert

Butkin stepped down.

He first identified \$1 billion "that the state was holding in overnight funds in the state's checking account. It "needed to be invested."

As a result, he said, "We will double what we usually made in those investments this year." He said as the governor's Secretary of Finance and Revenue, he was the governor's "point person" in the special session.

People are "making more money and paying more taxes," he reported. "More people are buying things which increases the sales tax." And oil and gas production is growing, which increases production taxes, along with an increase in the price of oil from \$28 a barrel in 2003, to \$59 a barrel.

He said there is an "historic" investment in common schools and teacher pay, in higher education and roads and bridges. The estate tax was eliminated and the top income tax rate was reduced from 6.25 percent to 5.25 percent, over four years.

He called school children "big winners" and teachers, users of healthcare, and "people who use roads and bridges, big winners."

Meacham said a result of changes he made in "liquidity

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OSU Student Tells About Two Pistol Pete Mascots



Pistol Pete, with Rotarian Bob Saunier

You may not ever see two "Pistol Petes," but there is a second one, says Cale Walker, who plays the part of the OSU Cowboy Mascot.

Walker presented the program at the June 12 club meeting, and stayed a while afterwards, for pictures with his fans.

Walker has played Pistol Pete since October, but 15 students tried out for the part, and the other student who won the part of team mascot is the one who causes trouble, Walker contends.

Like the baseball game recently, at which Pistol Pete climbed on top of the opposing team's dugout. The coach of the other team was critical of the action. But Walker said it was the other guy.

However, no one knows for sure, since there the head on the costume hides whoever is inside the orange and black get-up.

The mascots wear orange boots, a big belt buckle, pants and a gun belt, a white shirt and the 45-pound head. However, he cannot talk so anyone can hear him.

Pete has a busy schedule of private events. He takes part in weddings, parades, and birthday parties as well as football games. He is available for such events, but only the football games are free. The private events cost money, Walker said.

Pistol Pete is made to look like a real person, who lived and retired in Perkins. He was known as a "sharp shooter," Walker said.

Walker is an Agricultural Education major. He was an officer of the State FFA.



Cale Walker, "Pistol Pete"

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He said people asked him how he liked Texas. But as a college coach, Switzer said from recruiting days, he "knew every high school, every pool hall, every beer joint...where kids hang out."

Switzer also told of the Cowboy playoff game with San Francisco. After the first play, Dallas was down 7-0. They snapped the ball twice, and it was 14-0. Quickly it was 21-0, and Switzer said he had "never been down 21-0."

He said he told the team, "We've got 55 minutes to get back in this SOB."

Switzer was introduced by Randy Saunier. He presented him a picture of the two of them when Saunier played ball there.

Switzer then introduced Derek Prentice, president of DMP

Imaging. Switzer and Prentice are partners in the business which is opening an office in the old Chamber of Commerce building, in McAlester.

It is "under construction right now," Prentice said.

There are six offices in the state and this is the first in a non-metropolitan area.

It has "about \$4 million in equipment" and it will "be operating" in about eight weeks. It will employ 11 or 12 people, initially.



Derek Prentice, DMP President

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targets," the state will increase efficiency, on line trading, get more bids and be more aggressive in state property funding.

He said he "protected" health care benefits, investments in Healthcare and infrastructure.

"We filled the state's Rainy Day Fund for the first time ever," he stated.

"It has been a pleasure serving you as state treasurer," he said.

In answer to questions, he said the state got \$25,000,000 this year from Indian casinos for education. The lottery brought in \$7 million, and is expected to bring in \$125 million next year.

Attendance, Visitors, and Handshakers

Last week there were lots of guests, to hear Barry Switzer. Sixty-one people attended. Boyd Bass was a guest of Roy Nelson, Cathy Crowl was a guest of Bruce Hall, Paul Harris was a guest of Don Harris, Joe Filippo was a guest of Shayne Javersak, Landon Walker was a guest of Gene Walker, Ryan Martin was a guest of Yvette Martin, Colin Smith was a guest of Orlean Smith, Drew Santine was a guest of Clem, and J. Paul Lane was a guest of Paul Lane.

On June 12, James Beaty was a guest. Drew Santine was with Clem Santine and Austin Helt was a guest of Doug.

On June 6, there were 62 present. Kelly Yates was a guest of Brent Yates. Karl Harris was a guest of Don, and our Rotary Exchange Student, Gustavo Borgas was present.

HANDSHAKERS-The Sauniers have been shaking a lot of hands. Bob Saunier gets around pretty well for an "older fellow," and he won the dollar from Gene Walker June 12. Randy won it June 6, and Betty Talley won it from Brian Renegar last week.

Remember, there's no meeting July 4, but the Flag Committee needs help.