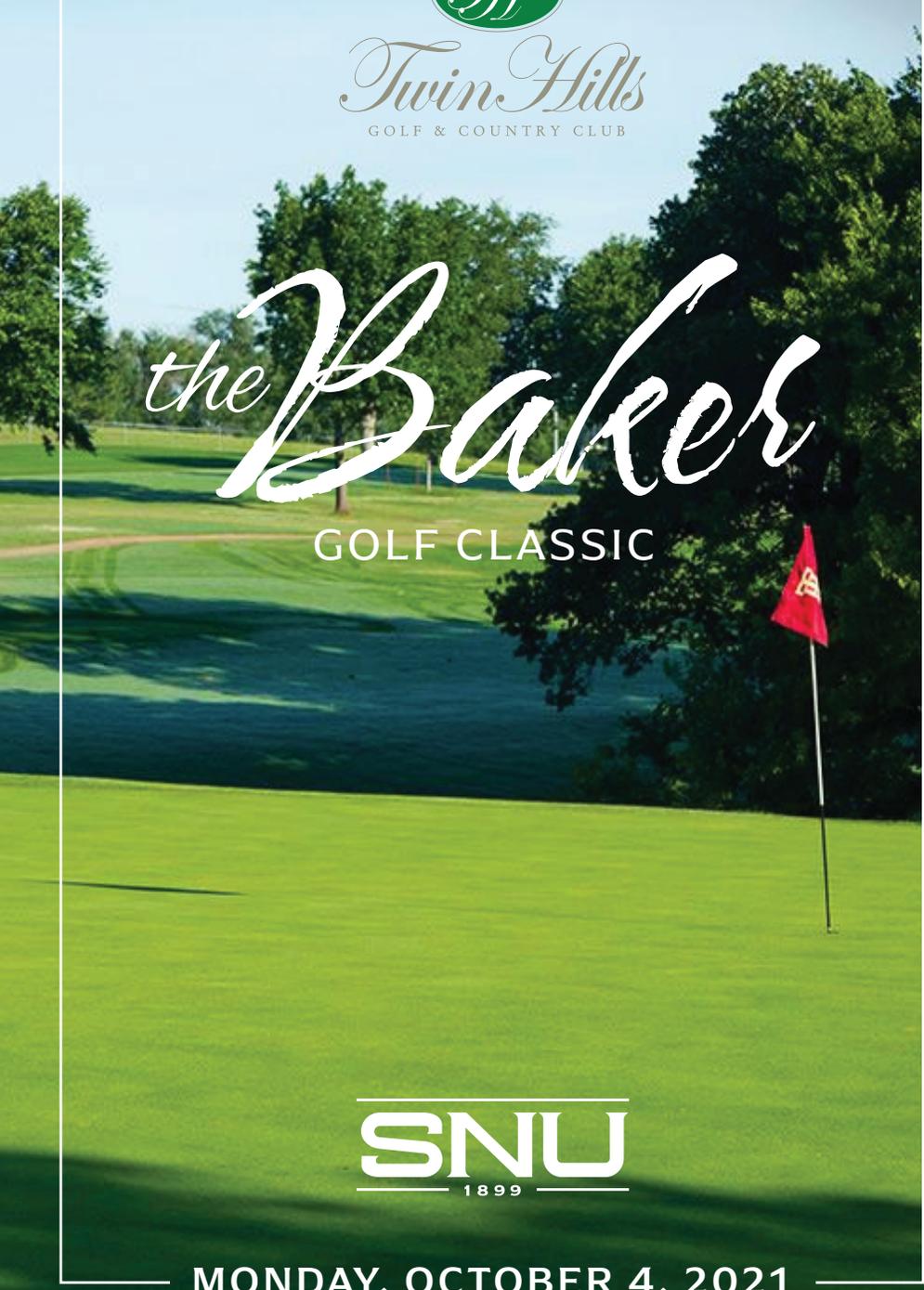




6729 NW 39th Expressway, Bethany, OK 73008 - snu.edu

A photograph of a golf course green with a red flag on a pole. The green is in the foreground, and a path leads into the distance. There are trees in the background under a clear blue sky.

the Baker
GOLF CLASSIC



MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021

the Baker

GOLF CLASSIC

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2021 marks the seventeenth year of the David Baker SNU Golf Classic. This event raises much needed funds to insure that SNU's basketball program can accomplish its goals. Both Coach Adam Bohac and Coach Trent May are dedicated to their athletes achieving academically and competing at the highest levels. The Baker continues a vision by the SNU coaching staff to host a tournament at premier courses in which the participants get to see and feel the impact of their fund-raising. The Baker features the men's and women's basketball teams as active hosts for the golfers. The evening ceremony is complete with the full story of the purpose and mission of SNU athletics.

Each year it is our intent to fill a roster of 30 teams and 120 golfers. Our loyal sponsors make this a premier event that impacts SNU student athletes.

Thank you to all who contribute in any way to the success of this excellent event.

"The Baker," as it has become known, is the primary source of outside funding for the SNU men's and women's basketball programs. During and after the season student athletes receive additional academic opportunities and are able to take additional classes in order to graduate with the highest of academic and athletic honors.

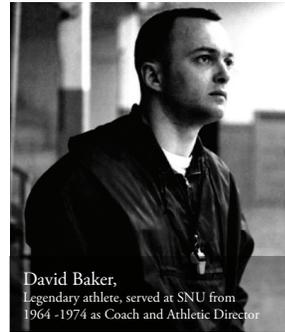


IT ALL BEGAN IN 2005 WITH 27 PLAYERS...

2005 Oak Tree National GC	2013 Quail Creek GCC
2006 Gaillardia CC	2014 Oak Tree National GC
2007 Quail Creek GCC	2015 Gaillardia CC
2008 Twin Hills CC	2016 Quail Creek GCC
2009 Oklahoma City GCC	2017 Oak Tree National GC
2010 Oklahoma City GCC	2018 Rose Creek GC
2011 Oak Tree National GC	2019 Twin Hills CC
2012 Gaillardia CC	2020 Baker Worldwide

IN THE BEGINNING

David Baker (1937-2002) grew up in Bartlesville, OK and is the man who we honor with this event. He was a three sport All-Stater in football, basketball, and baseball. He enrolled at the University of Oklahoma in 1955 under legendary coach,



David Baker,
Legendary athlete, served at SNU from
1964-1974 as Coach and Athletic Director

Bud Wilkinson. In 1959 he was drafted into the NFL as the fifth pick of the first round by the San Francisco 49ers. Baker played cornerback for

the 49ers for three seasons (1959-1961) and still holds the 49ers' interception record per season, having 21 career interceptions, averaging 7 per season. In 1959, his rookie season, he was selected to the NFL All-Pro team. After serving two years in the US Army, a return to the NFL to a signed contract seemed eminent.

CONNECTING WITH SNU

However, by divine intervention, a different path would be charted. In 1964 Dr. Roy Cantrell, President of SNU, asked David to help begin intercollegiate athletics and be a professor of physical education. The position would include serving as the first athletic director and head basketball coach. Setting aside a lucrative NFL contract and all of its amenities, David and Edna Baker traveled to Bethany, OK, signed an SNU contract worth \$3,600 annually, and began a dream.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

With no intercollegiate program, no scholarships, and no budget, Coach Baker set out with a vision that SNU could become one of America's finest small college athletic programs. At age 27, with a background in the country's finest collegiate football program (OU) and the NFL (49ers), Baker believed that the greatest impact and athletic experience could happen where "athletics in a Christian atmosphere" thrived.

During Baker's tenure (1964-1974) a long list of significant accomplishments occurred: the first two men's basketball seasons garnered winning marks; Benchwarmer Club formed in 1968; first funded scholarships awarded in 1969; Redskin Revolution changed the course of sportsmanship in society; women's basketball, volleyball, and men's and women's tennis were added; big man playing point innovation added in 1971 and copied nationwide; Spokesman Bicycle Tour group formed; and the goal to achieve a national title in 10 years was set and reached with men's basketball title in 1981 under Coach Loren Gresham; all under the foundation of Mark 9:23..."all things are possible to him who believes."

I speak for many when I say, Coach David Baker was a life-changer for me. As my coach, professor, mentor, colleague, and friend, he inspired me to be all that I could be, to live life in the "right way with the right priorities" and "love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." I will forever be indebted.

-Dr. Larry Mills ('66)