

### First Tourney In 1908.

While there was no state tennis organization until the following year, the first state championship tournament was held at Oklahoma City in 1908. There were twenty-two entries in singles and twelve teams in doubles. John T. Bailey of Alblon, Okla., was the first title winner, beating Charles T. Speice of Kingfisher in the finals, 6-4, 4-2, 6-0. Speice, paired with Earl Mack, that famous Kingfisher college team, won the doubles finals from R. E. Conger and R. A. Vose of Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma City team won the first set after a hard battle, but the collegians came back and won the next three sets, all of which were hotly contested. The scores were 6-8, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

In 1909 a state association was organized and became affiliated with the United States National Lawn Tennis Association. John T. Bailey was elected president, Charles Speice, vice president; W. F. Dickens, secretary. That year the state championship tournament was held at Shawnee. Again Bailey won the title, R. A. Vose of Oklahoma City being the runner up. The scores were 6-0, 6-1, 6-4. Paired with Speice, Bailey annexed the doubles title also that year, the Bailey-Speice team defeating Conger and Vose in the finals, 6-4, 6-3, 6-0. More entered this tournament than the year previous, thirty-one participating in the singles and fifteen pairs playing in the doubles. The executive committee in 1909 was: W. F. Dickens, Thackary, Okla.; R. A. Vose, Oklahoma City; E. J. Peters, Shawnee; Charles T. Speice, Kingfisher, and John T. Bailey, Alblon.

For the third consecutive time Bailey won the singles title in 1910, defeating

R. E. Conger in the finals, 6-2, 6-1, 6-0, the tournament being held on the courts of the state university at Norman. This was the first time out-of-state players had taken much interest in the Oklahoma tournaments. J. B. Adoue Jr. and R. F. Shelton of Dallas, Texas, entering and winning all matches as a team up to the finals, when they were beaten by Bailey and Speice in a match that stands out prominently on the pages of Oklahoma athletic history, 4-6, 9-7, 6-3, 6-4. Forty-four played in the singles matches and twenty-two teams in the double. John T. Bailey was re-elected president, Charles T. Speice, vice president, and W. F. Dickens, secretary-treasurer. The executive committee consisted of: P. D. Maxwell, Ardmore; R. E. Conger, W. D. Dickens, Charles T. Speice and John T. Bailey.