

# Pickens finally has his big day

BY JOHN HELSLEY

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STILLWATER – Standing alongside Oklahoma State head trainer Rob Hunt, T. Boone Pickens sought affirmation for what his eyes were seeing and his money had bought.

“So, we’ve got the best?” Pickens asked.

Hunt unblinkingly responded: “Absolutely.”

Pickens, who has gifted \$254 million to OSU athletics, Monday got his first look at the finished product of the \$184 million west end zone expansion at, appropriately, Boone Pickens Stadium.

A tour with school officials and the media presented a first stop at Hunt’s station, the 8,300-square-foot training center. From there, Pickens was met by Cowboys coach Mike Gundy in the locker room, and even checked out a locker with his name and number, an apropos No. 1.

Finally, Pickens was met by strength and conditioning coach Rob Glass in the new weight room.

In a word, he was pleased.

“Overwhelming,” said Pickens, an OSU alum.

That was the desired affect — for players, for fans, for recruits. And, yes, for Pickens, without whom none of this would have been likely.

It was his \$160 million pledge seven years ago that put this Pickens Plan in full motion.

Monday marked an admiring point.

Pickens had seen an unfinished version some two months ago, but admitted that he’s not much of a conceptual person.

“Today is it for me,” Pickens said. “This is where I see it finished.

“I grasped it today. It’s a big day for me.”