

"She's a great person—I like her a lot," Wilson's brother Andrew says of Kate (with Owen at the L.A. premiere of *The Wendell Baker Story* on May 10).

KATE & OWEN

SO HAPPY

She's California cool. He's a Texas preppy. Now they're getting serious, stepping out together and spending time with each other's families

It had all the makings of a great double date: easy conversation, free-flowing laughter and a couple of bottles of wine. Seated at West Hollywood eatery Madeo on May 11, Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell kicked back with daughter Kate Hudson and her boyfriend of nine months, Owen Wilson. "All four of them were beaming and kidding around," says an observer. "They were all very into each other, like they've been comfortable together for a long time—like family."

The dinner was only the latest sign that Hudson, 28, and Wilson, 39, are stepping up their once-undercover romance with everything from meet-the-parents dinners to a visit to Wilson's hometown of Dallas. Even more tellingly, Wilson has been logging bonding time with Hudson's son Ryder, 3. (Dad is Hudson's ex, rocker Chris Robinson, 40, who is seeking joint custody of Ryder in the couple's still-pending divorce.) "Owen adores Ryder," says a friend of the couple's. "Ryder will be running around and Owen is the first to go play with him and kick a soccer ball." Meanwhile, Hudson fits right in with her guy's famously merry band of brothers (actor Luke, 35, and director Andrew, 42). "She is the world's most beautiful tomboy," Andrew says. "We have these soccer games at Owen's house and she's one of the best players out there."

The couple's easygoing nature was evident during their recent visit to Texas, where on May 8 they turned up in wet hair and sandals at an Austin Whole Foods café after going for a swim at a nearby public pool. "Every time Owen would get up, Kate would watch him with a smile," says a staffer. There were more smiles two nights earlier, when Wilson introduced his parents—Laura, 67, a photographer, and dad Bob, 65, an author—to Hudson over dinner at Dallas's Celebration restaurant. (His folks, says a source, "loved her.")

Such public togetherness is still relatively new for the cou-



"OWEN CARES A LOT ABOUT KATE AND RYDER AND THEIR HAPPINESS"

—A FRIEND



The couple hit a Dallas Mavericks-Golden State Warriors game on May 3.

ple, who bonded on the set of 2006's *You, Me and Dupree* but weren't officially linked until last August, after Hudson and Robinson had split. But as things continue to heat up, it's clear that the perennial bachelor might just be ready for lots more soccer practice. "Owen has talked about having kids for a long time," says a friend. "He would never get close to her child unless he was in this relationship for the long haul."

By Michelle Tauber, Jennifer Garcia, Lycia Naff and Nicholas White in Los Angeles and Anne Lang in Austin

TOGETHER