

Baylor football moving up in the world

That Holiday Bowl trophy really ties the room together

By DANIEL HILL
SPORTS WRITER

To put it lightly, when Baylor football first went to the Texas Bowl in 2010, it was a big deal. It marked Baylor's first bowl game appearance since 1994. Baylor nation was happy just to go to a bowl game, never mind actually winning it. But times have changed in Waco. The Bears have won two straight bowl games with the Alamo Bowl against Washington in 2011 and the Holiday Bowl versus UCLA in 2012.

Going to a bowl game is officially an expectation now and winning that bowl game is a must. Baylor put on a dazzling performance in San Diego during the bowl season by shellacking the UCLA Bruins 49-26.

Senior quarterback Nick Florence made his final game in the Baylor green and gold a memorable one by rushing for 37 yards and a touchdown and by completing 10 of 13 passes for 188 yards and two touchdowns.

Sophomore running back Lache Seastrunk and junior running back Glasco Martin ran behind Baylor's supremely talented offensive line to combine for 236 yards and four touchdowns.

Next year Seastrunk and Martin will return to lead the Bears' rushing attack. Seastrunk had a breakthrough finish to the season by rushing for more than 100 yards in the five of the last six games of the season.

He asserted himself as the featured running threat in the Baylor backfield. Whenever Seastrunk received double-digit carries, he proved to be a lethal difference maker.

In the last four games of the year, his lowest rushing total was an astounding 136 yards against Texas Tech. Seastrunk had an electrifying average of 7.7 yards per carry for the entire season. With Seastrunk being more prominently featured in next year's rushing attack, look for him to topple his season

mark of 1,012 yards that he posted this past season.

While running backs typically receive all of the glory, they can't go anywhere without a solid offensive line.

Baylor's offensive line was stocked with elite talent and experience this season and that shouldn't change much heading into next year. Much of the offensive line also returns as the Bears only lose two starters in center Ivory Wade and guard Cameron Kaufhold.

Cyril Richardson is a highly

valued NFL offensive line prospect and it looks as of now, that he will be returning to Baylor next year

instead of declaring for the NFL.

Starting tackles Troy Baker and Spencer Drango both return with a year of experience under their belts. Baylor will lose two talented wide receivers in Terrance Williams and Lanear Sampson. Thankfully, the Bears are still loaded at receiver with senior Tevin Reese, juniors Levi Norwood and Antwan Goodley.

Both Norwood and Goodley are versatile receivers with immense potential. Much of the offense remains in-

tact, except for the obvious task of replacing starting Florence.

The early favorite to replace Florence would be junior quarterback Bryce Petty.

Petty is an athletic quarterback with a big frame and a strong arm. He was a highly sought-after high school prospect from Midlothian who had offers from Arkansas, Nebraska, Tennessee and Virginia Tech.

With Baylor's successful offensive schemes and a talented offensive line, playmakers at running back and game-breakers at receiver, Petty or whoever the quarterback is,

should be in a position to succeed next fall.

During the first half of the season, the Bears' Achilles heel was the atrocious play of the defense. During the latter half of the season, the Baylor defense started to perform at an extremely high level.

The defense had a coming out party against No. 1 ranked Kansas State in which they had three interceptions and held the Wildcats to under 100 yards rushing as a team. Baylor made the sure tackles and intimidated the Kansas State offense, including then Heisman front-runner Collin Klein.

The Kansas State game single-handedly shifted the momentum of the Baylor season.

After that upset win over the top-ranked team in the country, the Bears went gangbusters and won all three of its remaining games—including two over ranked opponents in Oklahoma State and UCLA.

The Bears' defense should continue to build upon its late season 2012 successes to lead into 2013. Key returning defensive members are senior safety Ahmad Dixon, senior safety Sam Holl, senior defensive end Chris McAllister, senior defensive end Terrence Lloyd, junior linebacker Bryce Hager and senior linebacker Eddie Lackey.

Defensively, the Bears should also get a boost of the addition of Penn State transfer Shawn Oakman. The junior defensive end will be eligible for the 2013 season after sitting out the 2012 season due to NCAA transfer rules.

If the defense can keep the momentum from the 2012 season and improve over the offseason, the collective wealth of experience should lend itself to a stout Baylor defense in the fall.

Robert Griffin III led Baylor to new heights and Nick Florence followed. Both greatly helped the ascension of Baylor football.

The foundation has been laid for this current Baylor football team to accomplish something that both Griffin and Florence could not—win a Big 12 championship.



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Griffin rejuvenates Washington, makes Baylor Nation proud

By PARMIDA SCHAHHOSSEINI
SPORTS WRITER

As the NFL season comes to an end after the Super Bowl on Feb. 3, the NFL teams will be looking back on their season trying to figure out what adjustments they need to make for next season.

The Washington Redskins are no different.

The Redskins have a rich history. They had the heated rivalry

one quarterback started to make history—that was Baylor's own Robert Griffin III.

Griffin and the Baylor Bears began the season with a 50-48 win over No. 14 TCU in which he threw

for 359 yards and five touchdowns.

He followed that up with a 10-win season, including a thrilling 38-45 win against Oklahoma at Floyd Casey Stadium in which Griffin threw a touchdown pass

with eight seconds left in the game.

Griffin finished off the season winning numerous awards, including the Heisman Trophy, and led the Bears to their first bowl victory since 1992, ironically the same year

the Washington Redskins won the Super Bowl.

After the season ended, Griffin decided to enter the NFL Draft.

Before the draft, the Redskins gave up "the farm," as many people called it, when they traded three first round picks and a second round pick to the St. Louis Rams to move to the second spot to get their franchise player.

The Redskins did indeed pick Griffin with the second overall pick.

While many people thought they traded away the future, Griffin is rejuvenating a once-great football city.

In Griffin's rookie debut, he out-dued Drew Brees on the road at the Superdome, completing 19 of 26 passes for 320 yards and two touchdowns in the 40-33 win.

Despite big plays from Griffin, the Redskins went 3-6 before the bye week and people began to write them off, but Griffin did not quit and neither did his team.

The Redskins went on to win seven straight games, including a week 17 victory against the Dallas Cowboys for the division title.

Through that win streak, Griffin made Baylor proud as reached the 100 mark in quarterback rating five times, threw 14 touchdowns and only two interceptions during that span.

In the regular season Griffin recorded 3,200 yards, a 102.4 passer rating and 20 touchdowns and five interceptions, which was an NFL low among starting quarterbacks. He is also in the running to win

Rookie of the Year.

Griffin was a vital part of the Redskins' success because there was pressure on him to score since his defense allowed an average of 25 points per game, though he was under the same pressure while at Baylor.

While the defensive unit was ranked 28th in the league, there were some key injuries on that side of the ball, such as linebacker Brian Orakpo and safety Brandon Meriweather.

Despite the shortcomings on defense, Griffin turned this franchise around and made the Redskins relevant again as teams started to consider them a threat.

Their pistol offense was enough to keep defenses on their toes, which allowed for more play action passes and bigger plays down the field.

Injuries to the offense also hurt as they lost tight end Fred Davis for the year and wide receiver Pierre Garcon for parts of the year.

Griffin, however, kept putting up big numbers with his arm and legs leading his team to the playoffs.

The Redskins did lose the wild card game against the Seattle Seahawks, but many feared that they lost their franchise quarterback after Griffin tore his LCL and ACL. Griffin, however continues to be positive and is eyeing a bigger year next year. Who knows, maybe he can come back and have an Adrian Peterson kind of bounce-back year and continue to make Baylor proud.



RICHARD LIPSKI | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III salutes the crowd as he walks off the field with a twisted knee during the second half of a playoff football game Sunday against the Seattle Seahawks. Washington lost the game.

Super Bowl XLVII: Who will win the family feud?



DAVE MARTIN | ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco 49ers' quarterback Colin Kaepernick celebrates after the NFC Championship game against the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday.

By DANIEL HILL
SPORTS WRITER

When the San Francisco 49ers play their brand of football, they cannot be beaten. In all but one of their losses this year, their opponent jumped out to a quick lead and San Francisco couldn't regroup

SPORTS TAKE

and get back into the football game. The 49ers did suffer two blow-out losses this year. The New York Giants beat them 26-3 and the Seattle Seahawks beat them 42-13. The 49ers have learned how to battle back from early deficits. This is due in large part to the maturation of Colin Kaepernick at quarterback. In the NFC Championship game, Atlanta jumped out to an early 17-0 lead, but Kaepernick regrouped, and San Francisco made adjustments to beat the Falcons. Kaepernick had an efficient day and was 16 of 21 passing for 233 yards and one touchdown.



MARK HUMPHREY | ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco 49ers' Frank Gore scores a five-yard touchdown run during the NFC Championship game against the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday.

By GREG DEVRIES
SPORTS EDITOR

The San Francisco 49ers will easily win this year's Super Bowl against the Baltimore Ravens. All eyes will be on second-year quarterback Colin Kaepernick, but the Ravens will not have an answer to what he brings to the table. In his second game of the playoffs against the Atlanta Falcons, Kaepernick was 16-21 passing for 233 yards and a touchdown. Even if the Ravens are ready for a quarterback whose efficiency is as high as Kaepernick's, he can also run the ball. In his first game of the playoffs against the Green Bay Packers, Kaepernick rushed for 181 yards and two touchdowns. He can beat a defense a lot of ways, and Baltimore's defense is not the Raven's defense of old. This Ravens defense ranks closer to the middle of the pack. They allow 228 yards per game through the air and another 123 on the ground. This ranks 17th and 20th in the league respectively. The Ravens will have a tough



STEPHAN SAVOIA | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baltimore Ravens inside linebacker Dannell Ellerbe celebrates after intercepting a pass during the AFC Championship football game on Sunday.

By PARMIDA SCHAHOSSEINI
SPORTS WRITER

At 6 pm, Feb. 3 the stage will be set for two brothers as their teams battle in the trenches toward the ultimate goal of hoisting a Lombardi Trophy. The "Superbaugh," as many are starting to call it, is going to be a great matchup as the two coaches, Jim and John Harbaugh, will try and earn the victory for their respective teams. The Ravens had to deal with the injury to Terrell Suggs, the loss of their shutdown cornerback Lardarius Webb, and injuries to linebacker Ray Lewis. However, despite the adversity, the playoffs are a different animal. The Ravens have been playing well. Injured playmakers got back together on defense in the first playoff game. Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco is playing at a high level with eight touchdowns and zero interceptions during the postseason. The Ravens offense has scored touchdowns in nine of their nine red zone trips. On the other side of the ball, the Ravens defense has

only allowed 43 points in the three postseason games. This game can belong to anyone, but this is the Ravens year. The 49ers haven't been as strong against physical teams such as the Seattle Seahawks and the New York Giants, and the Ravens play physical football. While the 49ers do have Colin Kaepernick, the Ravens did a good job on RG3, who plays a similar style, with a depleted defense. The Ravens beat the Colts, Peyton Manning and the Patriots at Foxborough after trailing 13-6 in the half. The Patriots were 67-0 when leading at the half. The Ravens' season ended in New England last year, but they came back and got revenge. After defeating the Colts, Ray Rice called this team the "team of destiny." An announcer called the Seahawks the "team of destiny" after Marshawn Lynch scored a touchdown as they came back from a 20 point deficit during Atlanta's game against the Seahawks. Seattle lost 30 seconds later to a Matt Bryant field goal. The Ravens are a team of destiny.

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Baylor defeats Cowboys, moves to 4-1 in Big 12 play



Freshman center Isaiah Austin rises up to shoot over an Oklahoma State defender on Monday at the Ferrell Center. The Bears won the game 64-54 and are now 13-5 overall. Austin finished with 10 points and 14 rebounds.

*By DANIEL HILL
SPORTS WRITER*

The Baylor Bears defeated the Oklahoma State Cowboys on Monday, 64-54. The game featured breakout performances from freshman center Isaiah Austin and junior forward Cory Jefferson: both Austin and Jefferson posted double-doubles on the stat sheet. They also clearly impacted the game with their shot blocking and interior defense.

“We just wanted to be aggressive,” Austin said. “We wanted to control the paint and that’s what we did.”

Austin had 10 points and 14 rebounds and five blocks. Senior point guard Pierre Jackson led the way offensively for the Bears with 18 points and was four of nine from beyond the arc. But lately, the Bears have been all about defense.

“I know in the nonconference, we were better offensively than we were defensively,” said head coach Scott Drew. “I don’t want to jinx anything, but I think we are getting better at knowing how rotations need to be and what we need to do. I think players really are doing a good job with listening to scouting reports and following through with execution on the court.”

After a tough conference road loss last week at the hands of the No. 4 Kansas Jayhawks, the Bears found their stride this past weekend with a blowout 107-38 win over Hardin-Simmons and a solid win over the Cowboys.

The Bears held OSU to only 35 percent shooting from the field in large part due to an outstanding defensive effort. Jefferson had a solid bounce-back game against OSU after he struggled against Kansas last week on ESPN’s Big Monday showcase game. Jefferson had 11 points, 11 rebounds and six blocks against the Cowboys.

Together Austin and Jefferson tied the Baylor team record for most blocks in a Big 12 Conference

game.

“Defensively, we just wanted to protect the rim,” Jefferson said. “We are some of what I feel are the best shot blockers in the Big 12 and we wanted to come out and let everybody know that on every night. Offensively, we just wanted to play our game whether it was with the guards or in the post. After that, it’s just executing everything we were supposed to. We know that every game gets won by the defense. It doesn’t matter what you do on offense if you can’t stop anybody. That’s something we pride each other on.”

Senior guard A.J. Walton contributed to the OSU victory in almost every way possible. Walton had 13 points, five rebounds, four assists and two steals.

“Because one thing A.J. does is he plays hard,” said Drew. “When you play hard, good things normally are going to happen. That means loose balls, rebounds and steals. This year, I thought he’s had a great assist to turnover ratio.”

With a national audience watching on ESPN, Baylor helped set the tone for the kind of team they hope to be for the rest of the year.

“On Big Monday, everybody is watching, all around the nation,” Jackson said. “It’s a chance to show what your team is capable of. Last week we didn’t do a good job of that. We faced a great Kansas team. At home, we came out here and showed the nation that we can compete with the best.”

Drew identified the overall team defense as being key to a Baylor victory.

“I thought the interior defense with Jefferson and Austin tying a school record with 11 blocks was really critical and crucial to our success,” Drew said. “It allowed us to get some transition buckets and get going. I thought in the first half, turnovers hurt us in that stretch. We gave up some transition baskets but for the most part

defensively we were good all game. When Pierre gave us that offensive spurt, we were able to get some momentum in the second half. I thought in games like this, if you can get those loose balls, I thought A.J. did a great job, not only offensively, but coming up with some 50-50 balls tonight.”

A team-first and inside-out approach contributed to the strong Baylor performance.

“I thought the team really did a good job of making the extra pass and looking inside early on,” Drew said. “Cory and Isaiah were aggressive and successful. That helped some things so credit the guys on doing a great job hitting the bigs inside. At the end of the day, we know that if you don’t defend then you don’t give us a chance to win if you don’t shoot well. Hopefully we can keep this effort and keep getting better. Defending gives you a chance to stay in games on nights where you’re not making buckets. With a three-guard lineup that we have, we should have more assists than turnovers and we have to continue to get better at that.”

Baylor will take the hardwood on Saturday against TCU on the road. TCU is winless inside the Big 12 Conference and only has a 9-9 overall record. TCU has losses to the likes of Southern Methodist, Northwestern, Houston, Tulsa, Texas Tech, Oklahoma State, Kansas State and Iowa State.

Baylor has already defeated TCU earlier this season at the Ferrell Center. The Bears won that game by 11 points, 51-40. The following week Baylor hoops will return to the Ferrell Center for a showdown against the Oklahoma Sooners on Wednesday night. The Sooners are proving to be a contender this year with a 4-1 conference record and a 13-4 overall record.

“There is so much parity in the Big 12,” Drew said. “Every game is so important, especially your home games.”

Griner, Baylor back on track to defend national title

*By PARMIDA SCHAHHOSSEINI
SPORTS WRITER*

The No. 1 Baylor Lady Bears (16-1, 6-0 Big 12) have picked up where they left off last year as they continue to roll through their competition on their quest to repeat as national champions.

Head coach Kim Mulkey, who stresses defense, has her unit playing well as they allowed only one team to shoot over 50 percent from the field all season. They are also 6-1 against ranked opponents, which puts their competitive play on display.

The Lady Bears hope to continue their streak of consecutive conference as they try to win their 29th game against No. 24 Iowa State at 7 p.m. tonight at the Hilton Coliseum at Ames, Iowa.

Baylor did have a little bit of a hiccup as they lost to No. 4 Stanford Cardinals, 71-69 on Nov. 16. While it was a loss, the Bears learned from it and realized that the road to a championship will not be easy.

During the Stanford game, Baylor allowed its opponent to shoot over 50 percent, breaking their streak of 217 games without allowing a team to shoot 50 percent or more.

“You don’t ever want to lose. You’re in Hawaii; you’re not under the normal circumstances of a regular practice schedule. You’re enjoying the beach and not having as much time to prepare,” Mulkey said. “We played Kentucky and had a quick turnaround to come here. It’s a great schedule for us to prepare for another national championship.”

The Lady Bears did come back and played for a 73-61 win against No. 5 Notre Dame. The Lady Bears’ defense frustrated Notre Dame star Skylar Diggins as she was 4-of-19 shooting. Griner, on the other hand, had 24 points, 14 rebounds,

and three blocks.

“Last year, I guess I started getting even more patient,” senior center Brittney Griner said after the win against Notre Dame. “I couldn’t get my hands on the ball, keep moving. Whatever I can do, I will do. I took it a play at a time; post up strong when I had to. Did whatever I could to help my team out.”

Griner, who was named Big 12 Player of the Week on Jan. 21, is gearing up for another productive year.

Griner currently has 2,796 career points and is 40 points away from breaking the scoring record in the Big 12.

She also has 651 blocked shots and is 13 blocks away from an NCAA record.

Griner is not the only reason the team is winning. Under Mulkey, the Lady Bears have been playing unselfish basketball.

Their team chemistry allows their game to flow.

Junior point guard Odyssey Sims averages 12.5 points per game and is leading the team with 5.2 assists per game.

Senior forward Brooklyn Pope is also having a breakout season as she averages 11.4 points per game.

On the defensive side, the numbers of senior guard Jordan Madden continue to improve.

Four Lady Bears rank among the Big 12’s top 10 in field goal percentage with Griner’s 59.8 percent at No. 1, senior guard Jordan Madden at 57.7 percent at No. 2, Pope at 56.4 percent at No. 5, and senior forward Destiny Williams at 55 percent at No. 7.

The Lady Bears have won 14 straight games after the loss to Stanford.

They have been playing at a high level.

The Lady Bears lead the Big 12 in scoring offense at 82.1 points per game, field goal percentage at 50.8

percent, blocked shots at 5.8 blocks per game and a rebound margin at +11.4.

Baylor has been playing hard-defense. Opposing teams also have to worry about Baylor’s third ranked offense.

There have been multiple games where several plays score in double digits and several games where they have one or more player with a double-double.

Mulkey teaches her players great work ethic and teamwork. It is one thing to have talent on the team, but without a coach putting them in positions for them to succeed, they would probably end up like the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Lady Bears have team chemistry, which keeps their offense flowing, but it also allows them to transition better from offense to defense and vice versa.

Currently Baylor is on a 49 home game win streak, the longest in the country.

The team has been competitive in every conference game winning all six so far.

Whether their opponents were ranked or unranked, the Lady Bears win in convincing fashion. Their closest game a 76-58 win against a very physical West Virginia on Saturday.

While the West Virginia defense gave the Lady Bears problems, a big 20-5 lead in the early first half was enough for them to sustain the lead.

“We went over in the scouting report how physical and how hard they were going to play,” Sims said.

The defensive problems led to the Bears to have 19 turnovers, which is a season high.

The Bears did enough to win the game, but they expected to do better.

They have high hopes for the season and very high expectations after their 40-0 run to the National Championship.



Senior center Brittney Griner reaches out to block a shot from a West Virginia player Saturday at the Ferrell Center. Griner finished with 26 points, 15 rebounds and nine blocks. Baylor is now 16-1 overall and 6-0 in the Big 12.

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|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Baylor | January 19 Ferrell Center | West Virginia |
| 76 | | 58 |
| 50.9% | FG pct. | 32.8% |
| 58.3% (14-24) | Free Throws | 41.4% (12-29) |
| 46 | Rebounds | 40 |
| 19 | Turnovers | 13 |
| Griner, 26 | Lead Scorer | Caldwell, 25 |

Three Bears to try out for pro soccer

By LARISSA CAMPOS
REPORTER

The Baylor women's soccer team saw its best season last fall with an overall record of 19-1-5 and made the program's first-ever appearance in the NCAA Sweet Sixteen game against the University of North Carolina.

Although the team experienced a devastating loss in penalty kicks to the Tar Heels, three senior stand-out players didn't want their time on the field to end just yet.

Senior forward Lisa Sliwinski, senior midfielder Hanna Gilmore and senior defender Carlie Davis all made the decision to try and continue their soccer careers in the newly formed National Women's Soccer League.

"I remember sitting on the bus after we lost to UNC and thinking to myself, 'this can't be it,'" Sliwinski said. "I was done playing for Baylor but I didn't think my days playing soccer were over."

After the demise of the Women's Professional Soccer league in 2012, women soccer players in the United States lacked a place to play at the professional level for an entire year.

The NWSL was created in place of the WPS,= and will start play this spring with eight teams in the league.

Sliwinski described the timing of the new professional league's creation as perfect.

She couldn't play college soccer anymore, but she was still fit enough from last season to jump into an intense and competitive soccer environment right away.

Each of the eight teams are made up of players from the United States, Canada and Mexico's national teams.

The college draft took place last Friday and added four more college players to each roster.

The rest of the spots will be made up of players picked up in

team tryouts that will be held throughout the next two months.

Although Sliwinski, Gilmore, and Davis did not get picked up in Friday's college draft, they are determined to continue their campaign to play professionally.

The trio plans to travel to Washington, D.C., this weekend to attend the open tryout of the Washington Spirit.

"It would have been awesome to get picked up in the college draft," Gilmore said. "But I think this will be a great experience for us. I've never done anything like this, and I just feel blessed for the opportunity."

As a part of head coach Marci Jobson's first recruiting class at Baylor, the three are considered a major part of "building the dynasty" she envisioned when first taking the job.

Jobson said Sliwinski, Gilmore and Davis are prepared physically and their time at Baylor has prepared them mentally for the intensity and high competition they will be up against.

"You have to have a consistent practice," Jobson said. "Those coaches may only be watching you for 10 minutes of the whole session. You have to be at the top of your game at all moments."

Jobson also expressed her excitement for the future of the program and said this could be a turning point for Baylor soccer.

"We are now turning the corner to not only be a winning program on the field and in the classroom, but also a developmental program for kids who want to play professionally."

Davis also thinks pursuing a professional career will benefit the program.

"In the future, girls are going to see Baylor as a place that can prepare them to play at the next level. It's cool that we can set that precedent for the program," Davis said.



NICK BERRYMAN | LARIAT FILE PHOTO

Senior left-handed pitcher Whitney Canion will look to bounce back from a knee injury this season. Canion missed all of last year, but two years ago she earned All-American honors for her work on the mound for the Bears.

Softball team gets healthy, changes identity

By PARMIDA SCHAHOSSEINI
SPORTS WRITER

Baylor softball finished third in the Big 12 preseason poll.

This is the fourth time in program history that the Bears were chosen third, but the team has high hopes that it can finish better and play competitive ball on the road to go to another world series.

Last year, Baylor softball made the post season. The team entered the NCAA regional tournament and ranked No. 23 despite losing its All-American left-handed pitcher Whitney Canion after she suffered a torn ACL. The team continued to fight though the adversity as senior right-handed pitcher Courtney Repka and junior right-handed pitcher Liz Paul filled in the role of pitching. Sophomore outfielder Kaitlyn Thumann also contributed with big hits.

The team fought hard and came together, finishing 34-22 and making it to the NCAA Regional in Lafayette, La. The team fell in regional play to the Stanford Cardinal.

"I am very excited," senior infielder Kathy Shelton said. "We had a rough year last year, so I'm excited for our opportunities this year. I think it's going to be a lot better than last year."

Having Canion back on the lineup is a huge confidence booster as several team members noted that their game is different when she is on the field. Canion took the team to the College World Series two years ago and is an impact player. Canion is doing well as she prepares to get ready for the new season.

"I'm just trying to get back to the swing of things," Canion said. "I've pitched three times this week and hit. Everything feels good right

now. I just have to get back into game shape."

Having Canion back isn't the only change the team has made. They also added new players that will help them transition from a speed team to a power team.

"We'll have decent speed as a team but a lot more power," head coach Glenn Moore said. "So that's kind of the direction we wanted to go in for the last couple of years to be honest with you."

The players are excited for the new offense and hopeful that they will enjoy more success with their new power game.

Baylor also brings back 10 letter winners and seven starters off the 2012 squad. This season will be different not only because of the type of offense the team will play, but it's also who it plays.

After Texas A&M and the University of Missouri left for the

Southeastern Conference, the Big 12 lost two softball teams. This means that the Bears will have to play more non-conference games. Moore said it was sad to see A&M go because it was nice to have that competition to prepare them for the postseason.

The Bears will have to do a good job of getting tough non-conference opponents in the future. Many players are still optimistic that the conference games will still be competitive because there are many strong teams.

Baylor softball will begin the 2013 season Feb. 7 at home for the Gettnerman Classic. The Gettnerman Classic will include seven home games and will run through Feb. 10.

The opponents will include games against Illinois State, Sam Houston State, Northern Illinois and Southern Mississippi.



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Golf team all set for the start of season

What should happen to the faces of steroids?

By RYAN DAUGHERTY
REPORTER

Football season is over in Waco, but another sport is just around the corner.

The Baylor men's golf team is just a few weeks away from starting a highly anticipated season.

The Bears look to start the 2013 season the way they finished last season: on top.

Baylor participated in the Warrior Wave Intercollegiate in Hawaii last November and came out in first place, giving them their first win in over a year.

Baylor lost seniors Drew McGee, Joakim Mikkelsen, and Lorenzo Scotto but has added two talented freshmen to the club.

One of the newer faces on the team is Andreas Gjestebý, a freshman from Drammen, Norway.

Though he is one of only two freshmen on the roster, Gjestebý has had a remarkable career up to this point, winning numerous tournaments, including two 2011 Titleist Tournaments at Skjeberg GK and Kragero GK respectively, and the 2012 Norges Cup at Notteroy GK. Gjestebý, however, isn't satisfied.

He is eager for the UTSA Oak Hills Invitational in San Antonio on Feb. 11 to arrive.

"I am really excited to start playing tournaments again. We have had a really long pause now," Gjestebý said. "Who's going to San Antonio isn't final yet, but I'm going to do everything in my power to get a spot on the team."

Gjestebý is well prepared for the season but he can already spot differences from golf in Norway.

"We tend to play more rounds of golf outside tournament than I did back home in Norway where I spent most of my time grinding short game, putting or technique," Gjestebý said.

Gjestebý joins an already talented squad of golfers.

Among those golfers is senior Ryan O'Rear. O'Rear has appeared in three consecutive Big 12 Men's Golf Championships, and he is motivated to make one last run during his last season as a collegiate golfer.

"It's my last go around so I'm just going to give everything I've got and do whatever I can to help my team get back to nationals," O'Rear said.

Being a senior, O'Rear now steps into a mentor-like role for incoming freshmen such as Andreas Gjestebý.

O'Rear has advice for the Bears' newest additions for being successful on the green. "Just work hard," O'Rear said. "Work on your game. You know they're very talented, very good golfers, so they don't need to change anything. Going back to what I'm saying, they've played hard golf courses and tough competitions. They'll be fine. Just be themselves."

As the season nears, both Gjestebý and O'Rear have certain goals they wish to accomplish.

For Gjestebý, he looks to carry over his dominance from Norway.

"My main goal would be to play all the tournaments this spring and hopefully place top 10 in at least one of them," Gjestebý said. "Other than that I keep working on my game."

As for O'Rear, his goal is for the team to achieve similar success as it did his freshman season.

"It's mostly team related. You know I want to win a tournament individually but all my goals are just getting our team back where we were freshman year," O'Rear said.

O'Rear's freshman season was a success.

He finished 12th overall at the Big 12 Championship, a career best.

When asked about how he felt about the team's outlook this season, O'Rear sounded confident.

"I think we'll be fine. Our guys have played for their national teams," O'Rear said. "I don't think it's going to be anything new for them. They've played in big events so I expect big things out of them."

The team will tee off for the first time in 2013 on Feb. 11 at the University of Texas - San Antonio for the UTSA Oak Hills Invitational.

By GREG DEVRIES
SPORTS EDITOR

If a player is found to have used performance-enhancing drugs, then that player should not be voted into the Hall of Fame.

About 21 years ago, the Baseball Writers Association of America voted to permanently ban Pete

SPORTS TAKE

Rose from the Hall of Fame.

His crime? Betting on baseball games.

Betting on baseball games is definitely not something to be taken lightly, but the fact that Rose gambled didn't help him reach 4,256 hits, the all-time record.

If Pete Rose is permanently banned from the Hall of Fame, then it would be a travesty (and awfully hypocritical) for other players associated with cheating to have an honorary place in baseball's history books.

Keeping these players out of the Hall of Fame helps the game of baseball in the long run.

The voters can help make sure that history doesn't repeat itself.

If the voters send a powerful message and keep all of the known steroid abusers out of the Hall of Fame, then players who are tempted to use the next popular drug will see what is happening now and will know people will find out in the future.

The only way to get into the Hall



Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa, shown left to right, have become the faces of the "steroid era." Despite impressive stats, none have been voted into the baseball Hall of Fame. Bonds and Clemens were named in the Mitchell Report, and Sosa testified before Congress about his innocence.

of Fame and be remembered as one of the greatest players of all time is to stay clean and play baseball the way it was meant to be played.

Even if the cheating was as widespread as some fear it may have been, future players need to know that cheating will not be tolerated.

It's like the old adage your mother used to tell you.

"If everyone jumped off of a cliff, would you do it too?"

Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa seem to have jumped off of that cliff, and there is no climbing back up.

By DANIEL HILL
SPORTS WRITER

The endless debate about the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame is overwhelmingly subjective. Baseball writers want to protect the integrity of the Hall of Fame and not let anyone with any connection whatsoever to steroids or other performance enhancing drugs in.

How do the baseball writers, or anyone else for that matter, play judge and jury to know whether or not someone used performance-

enhancing drugs? It's impossible to figure out. What if someone already is in the Hall who used these drugs? We might never know the truth.

The Hall of Fame is meant to be the history keeper and preserver of baseball history. How can the Hall of Fame pretend like the historic home run record chase of 1998 between Mark McGuire and Sammy Sosa didn't exist? Who is to judge whether or not Jeff Bagwell did steroids? Bagwell had some muscle on his frame, but he was never linked to steroids. How can the Hall of Fame punish Bagwell just because

he was a muscular baseball player?

The voters denied all-time greats like Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens from being first-ballot inductees. The bottom line is that players like Bonds and Clemens were the defining ballplayers of the era.

Baseball simply can't pretend like steroid use was never a part of the game.

Everybody now knows that steroids were rampant in baseball throughout the 1990's and 2000's. It was part of the history of the game, and the Hall of Fame can't deny it.







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‘Hipster’ style invades record stores, thrift stores, Waco

BY REBECCA FIEDLER
REPORTER

They can be found walking around college campuses in their vintage clothes, listening to the strange music of obscure artists through their headphones.

Many people follow their style precedent, yet many find them too egotistical to stand. They are hipsters, and they are taking America’s thrift shops and record stores by storm.

According to “The Indie Cred Test,” a humorous book on the indie and hipster culture by Henry H. Owings and Chunklet in a magazine, what sets a “hipster” apart from any normal infant, among other things, is that when having a



ing a diaper changed, the hipster child will likely stare at the popcorn ceiling and make connections to a Stephen Hawking theory.

As opposed to normal bedroom trappings, a hipster child will have their room decorated with “black and white photos of infamous heroin addicts.” It also offers a statement to hipsters.

“A lot of people just despise you. You’re living in the last days. You’re the butt-end of postmodernism, the ultimate shipwreck of American culture, the embodiment of self-absorbed nihilism with a dumb haircut,” said Owings and Chunklet in the book.

In a chart on Cracked.com written by Amaya Perea and designed by Randall Maynard, Perea interprets a number of things that hipsters say as really meaning, “I think I’m better than you.”

Further down the page, past the big chart, a satirical pie chart, anonymously pre-

sented on the page, declares that over half of a hipster’s persona consists of “unwarranted self importance.”

Dr. Lorynn Divita, associate professor in the department of family and consumer sciences, categorizes hipsters as a type of “style tribe,” just as “goths” or “preps” are types of style tribes.

She credits hipsters with being the first to bring to modern popularity vintage T-shirts, trapper hats, Buddy Holly glasses, the mountain-man trend including big beards and flannel shirts, handlebar mustaches, and, most recently, three-wolf-moon T-shirts.

“One thing that separates true hipsters from ‘wannabes’ is an appreciation of the very obscure; a knowing about the trivia involved with various aspects of music or art or beverages, even,” Divita said.

Hipsters, she added, are no different than any other style tribe. The hipster movement contains three distinct groups that are characteristic of a style tribe: those people who are innovators of the style, those people in the majority, and finally those people who are “wannabes” or posers.

Davita said that one trait that sets hipsters apart from other style tribes, however, is their affluence.

“They don’t really stand for anything, unlike some other groups,” Divita said.

Divita said the common theme of being a hipster is an appreciation of irony. Everything they do is adopted in an ironic sense.

“When the mainstream adopts it,” she said, “it’s without irony. They’ve seen it and gotten used to it, and they think it looks cool.”

Jake Patterson, a Common Grounds coffee shop employee and self-proclaimed hipster, said he had difficulty defining the hipster style and that to him, it is a collaboration of things that can’t be put into words.

“The idea of a hipster or ‘hip’ culture is the rejection of whatever the social norm is,” Patterson said.

Holden Whatley, Patterson’s co-worker and another self-proclaimed hipster, said the hipster culture is a primarily college-aged movement for people who reject being labeled, but do not

want to lose recognition within their own culture.

Divita described hipster style as an evolving trend. After people in mainstream culture saw hipsters wearing some of their signature hipster clothes, those in mainstream culture began to follow suit.

She said that after a while, people began to develop a taste for hipster style, then the hipsters had to move on.

“I can tell you only one thing about ‘coolness,’” Divita said. “Once everybody’s doing it, it’s not cool.”

In terms of the music aspect of the hipster culture, however, Whatley finds

“One thing that separates true hipsters from ‘wannabes’ is an appreciation of the very obscure; a knowing about the trivia involved with various aspects of music or art, or beverages, even.”

Dr. Lorynn Divita | Associate

that hyper-accepted, popular music doesn’t dissuade him. It actually makes the music more comfortable to him. What bothers him is when bands that he was really into and whose music he had a personal connection with become popular.

He says that he accepts “his” music becoming popular because it’s music’s job to grow up, but he feels less connected with a band once it takes off.

“It’s not because everyone knows about it and now it’s not cool,” Patterson said in regards to losing connection with a band’s music that has become

popular. “It’s just more of a personal thing.”

Divita said being insulted or feeling hurt or angry when a trend one has a personal connection with becomes popular is not unique to hipsters. She said there is a big tendency in any style tribe to regard anyone new to the scene as less authentic.

Patterson said hip culture is about being more aware. He doesn’t see it as narcissism.

Patterson said he disagrees that rejecting popular culture is necessarily a factor in the hipster style.

For example, when he’s at work, Patterson said, sometimes he loves to hear Katy Perry music because he thinks that she’s talented, though his reasons for liking her would be different than someone else’s. He really does like to listen to her, Patterson said, because he likes her music and not to mock her.

Whatley said that he intentionally pushes himself outside of his comfort zone and listens to new types of music.

For a while he said he dumped out a lot of his iTunes library and put late 1970s to 1990s hip-hop on his iPod so that he wouldn’t have his comfort zone of musical styles and would be forced to explore that type of music.

Eventually he found himself only wanting to listen to hip-hop. After he learned more about it and gained a respect for it, he was able to appreciate it.

Divita said all style groups think that they’re better than everybody else, not just hipsters. All style groups have an egocentric viewpoint, she claimed.

Hipsters, she added, are one of the most recent tribes to spring up; that’s why she believes the narcissism stereotype is put on hipsters.

“I think they’d be disappointed to hear they’re more

like everybody else than they’d want to imagine,” Divita said.

Whatley said the stereotyping of hipsters as narcissists is natural because of what hipsters do, which is things for themselves.

“‘Hipster’ means that you are -- to break down narcissism -- self-oriented,” Whatley said. “Thoughts of self, thoughts of one’s own perspective on things, thoughts of one’s own preferences, thoughts of how other people view and receive you as a person.”

Patterson said that people might think that, as hipsters, he and Whatley reject “mainstream style” people, but many of his friends don’t share particular



lar style.

He claimed that it’s more important for a person to be true to who they truly are; their specific interests are not as important.

“Don’t ever hide,” Whatley said, advice for anyone in the mainstream culture. “Don’t ever tell yourself that you need to follow the social trend, this norm, to be accepted, loved and respected by anyone.”

Photos by Matt Helman | Lariat Photo Editor



‘Hobbit’ fails to impress those who loved book

By **ASHLEY DAVIS**
COPY EDITOR

Category: Action and Adventure, Science Fiction and Fantasy
Run time: 2 hr. 50 min.
Directed by: Peter Jackson
Written by: Philippa Boyens, Peter Jackson, Fran Walsh, Guillermo del Toro, J.R.R. Tolkien
65% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes

For those of you that saw “The Hobbit,” please hear me out. If you disagree with my views, feel free to contact me, and we’ll hold a public forum at your earliest convenience.

Reactions to these kinds of movies can always be divided into two categories: 1) those that have read the books 2) those that haven’t. I fall into the former.

If you haven’t read the books, most of this column will not apply to you.

On opening night, I came to the theater with high expectations, as I loved the other Lord of the Rings movies. This was perhaps my downfall.

As an avid reader of science fiction and fantasy, I have great respect for J.R.R. Tolkien’s works. I’ve read the Lord of the Rings trilogy and The Hobbit respectively and think they are great books that everyone should at least be familiar with.

When you admittedly and unashamedly love something, you set yourself up for disappointment or



even disillusionment for when that thing (or person) inevitably fails you. Nothing will ever sway my love for the books, but seeing “The Hobbit” movie was one of the lowest, most underwhelming points of my life.

First of all, splitting it into three movies? Unnecessary. I think it’s a sham and an exploitation of true Tolkien fans’ time. I hated “The Hobbit” movie, but I’m going to see the next movie and the next because I have to see whether Peter Jackson will destroy Tolkien’s good work again or do a halfway decent job.

The movie was incredibly long. That’s what made it all the more disappointing. The whole time,

in my mind I kept saying, “This is going to get better.” But it never did. And then it was over. When I stood up to leave my legs were hurting, and not because the seats were uncomfortable.

I also think the director took way too much creative license with

MOVIE REVIEW

★★★★☆

the story. The brown wizard isn’t in the book at all, and the “pale” orc was unnecessary as well as inaccurate.

I understand that for production purposes there must be some leeway given for the sake of time and details must be reworked to fit a video timeline, but in this case it was too much.

The acting was subpar. Gandalf (Ian McKellen) was the only redeeming presence among the lot. Bilbo, played by Martin Freeman, was true to character in looks and had a good start. But after they left the Shire, it was downhill from there.

The special effects were disappointing as well. Throughout the movie, I couldn’t understand why the special effects were so crummy when The Lord of the Rings trilogy, made years ago, was amazing in quality with less advanced technology.

I will concede that the soundtrack was great, but you should expect nothing less of Howard Shore. Peter Jackson, on the other hand, should’ve known better.

Bottom line, this movie was hard to get through. Even putting aside my more critical expectations as a journalist and as a fan of the books, it was hard to get through.

Shame on you, Peter Jackson!



This undated publicity photo released by Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. shows Jessica Chastain, as Maya, a member of the elite team of spies and military operatives stationed in a covert base overseas, who secretly devoted themselves to finding Osama Bin Laden in Columbia Pictures’ new thriller, “Zero Dark Thirty.”

‘Zero Dark Thirty’ is fiction that reflects reality about CIA

By **CAROLINE BREWTON**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Category: Drama
Run time: 2 hr. 37 min.
Directed by: Katherine Bigelow
Written by: Mark Boal
93% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes

for some to see the film, if other elements like dialogue or plot had been weaker, the strength of the actors would not have been enough.

Filmmakers face a monumental task to create suspense in a movie where the audience already knows how the story will end. By revealing details about the inner workings of the CIA during the period, including controversial depictions of torture, the movie achieves the suspense necessary to carry the audience through.

The film’s depiction of torture, which drew criticism from some quarters, mostly occurs early in the film. While it’s uncomfortable, it isn’t so explicit that I had to leave the theater (I’m personally uncomfortable with graphic depictions of torture). Instead, the heavy stuff is implied: for example, the battered face of a detainee is shown as opposed to the actual beating, and the filmmakers rely heavily on the use of dialogue to convey the gist of what’s happening.

I wouldn’t call the film pro-torture, although some have argued the film suggests the torture of detainees ultimately led to finding bin Laden. I can see where that interpretation comes from: such might be the case of one elderly gentleman who answers Maya’s questions eagerly after expressing a wish not

MOVIE REVIEW

★★★★☆

to undergo torture again. However, one prisoner named Ammar, who is kept at a CIA cite for interrogation, only answers the agents’ questions once the agents have taken him out of his cell and given him a meal, and not under torture.

Instead of revealing a clear position, I believe the film leaves room for ambiguity; it suggests you can’t form neat groups of good guys and bad guys. Instead, these larger groups -- Americans versus their enemies -- are made of individuals whose distinct narratives help to form impressions of the whole.

The good guys in this film use torture. The bad guys are shown vulnerable, naked and at the mercy of their American captors. And some are cowardly -- spilling secrets so as not to be hurt.

It’s about individuals. Real nations -- real stories -- are about individuals who don’t follow a fairy tale format with clearly delineated moral lines.

This film is brilliant because it provides a look at real life through the lens of fiction.

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Baylor students host Waco’s first music and film fest

By ROB BRADFIELD
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

A small group of people is trying to change Waco’s image in the music and film world.

The group is Waco Arts-Media and their event is the Waco Independent Media Expo.

The Expo is the brainchild of the three co-founders of Waco Arts-Media: Owen McGrath, Abilene senior Mackenzie Wilson and Waco senior Ben Palich.

It was born out of an idea to expand The 8th Street Film Festival, a project started in part by Palich and Wilson, and to help put Waco on the increasingly growing Texas independent entertainment map.

It was a small film festival held at Common Grounds.

“Even though not all of us are from Waco initially, we are all Wacoans in our own right,” Wilson said.

The Expo is divided into two parts. The film festival will be held on March 6 at the Dancing Bear and the music festival will be held on March 7 at Common Grounds.

According to the event coordinators, the Expo will try to connect the Waco music and film scenes with each other and the larger Texas communities.

“It’s more ‘Texas local’ than solely ‘Waco local,’” McGrath said.

The idea of “Texas Local” comes through most prominently

in the music lineup.

The Expo’s schedule blends local music staples like Kat Dixon (Married with Sea Monsters) and O, Loveland with up-and-coming bands from across the state such as headliner Bobby Jealousy (Austin) and Hydra Melody (San Antonio).

The music starts at 1 p.m. and continues all day.

Common Grounds’ live event coordinator, Wes Butler, has been working closely with the Waco Arts-Media team and is an eager partner. He has been using his experience in the

Texas music scene to draw in talent for the music side of the Expo.

“We love promoting arts in every facet that we can,” Butler said.

The film portion of the Expo will be hosted in the backyard of the Dancing Bear, at 1117 Speight Ave. On its website, the Expo promises to screen some of “the best independent and student films made in this great state of Texas.”

According to the organizers, the film festival is a way to get new



filmmakers exposure beyond what they could get at their Universities.

“Universities are great for many things, but it’s not their prerogative to give people exposure,” Palich said.

The list of films showing hasn’t been released yet, but they will all be student or independent short films from across the state. The film area at the Dancing Bear will be 18 and up, while the inside will remain 21 and up. Interested filmmakers may submit their shorts for the festival until Feb. 28 by sending Palich an email at Ben_Palich@baylor.edu with a link to their Vimeo or YouTube account.

The third part of the event is the little-talked-about “After.” It’s an

event at a currently undisclosed location for participants in both the film and music festivals, and a select number of Gold Pass holders.

“After’ was an idea to give filmmakers and musicians a chance to mingle and build connections between those communities,” McGrath said.

Tickets range in price from \$10 for the film festival and \$15 for the music festival. A silver pass is available for \$20, which grants access to both film and music, and a limited number of gold passes are available for \$30 that include entrance to the film festival, the music festival and the “After” event.

Tickets can be purchased at wacoartsmedia.com.

Meet your maker: Searching for the perfect cup of coffee

By STACY DOWNS
THE KANSAS CITY STAR
Via McCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

So deep is my passion for coffee that I’m excited each night to wake up to it each morning. I love the ritual of grinding beans, pouring filtered water and brewing, because it results in a product that looks, smells and tastes divine.

Recently, my darling drip machine died. I’d always been forgiving of its temperamental nature because it delivered such a satisfying cup. I sought a quick store replacement because the thought of going a day without home-brewed coffee was just too much to bear.

I found a cutie of a coffee maker, better looking than my last one. This new model was white everywhere, except a glass carafe. It featured the stylish simplicity of just one button. And the price was right at a little more than \$30.

But it wasn’t the same. It left a burned aftertaste and produced a muddy cup. So I went looking for Mr. Goodpot.

I’m not alone in my search. Coffee makers are a popular home-related holiday gift, especially one-cup machines like the Keurig that allow you to brew French roast, French vanilla or whatever strikes your fancy that day. And then there are manual methods like French press and pour-overs that are becoming popular at coffee shops. Percolators are even making a nostalgic hipster return.

I wondered if more expensive drip machines were worth the price tag. In my quest, I sought scientific knowledge.

Ben Helt of Benetti’s Coffee Experience in Raytown, Mo., is a coffee roaster who teaches home coffee-brew classes. We analyzed my \$30 coffee maker and determined how to make it better.

Marty and Tooti Roe of Service Call clean coffee machines throughout the area at independently owned shops and at fast-food chains. About a year ago they opened About the Coffee, a coffee-equipment store open to the public in an industrial section of Kansas City, Mo.

At The Roasterie in Kansas City, Mo., owner Danny O’Neill hooked me up with coffee tasters. Some of the company’s top baristas also joined us to determine the flavor differences produced by a variety of equipment. We used one bag of beans and seven kinds of makers.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

At the Roasterie’s cupping room, we put seven sets of equipment in five categories of brew methods both machine and manual and to the test using filtered water, clean equipment and the same bag of whole beans, the Roasterie’s Don Quijote of Costa Rica. The beans were ground just before brewing.

POUR OVER (Best for baristas and foodies.)

The equipment: The Hario V60 ceramic funnel. It’s a manual brewing method, allowing you to brew coffee right into your cup.

Pros:

- Rich flavor.
- Allows control of brewing time and temperature so the coffee is just the way you like it.
- You can get intimate with your coffee, watching it bloom and brew.

Cons:

- You have to baby your coffee, watching the kettle for the right temperature and wetting the filter before adding coffee.
- Although it’s manual, it requires equipment, including an electronic gram scale (about \$30) to weigh ground coffee and water and a kettle.

Models with an electronic reading are best because 200 degrees is the magic number, rather than the boiling point of 212. Those will set you back \$60. One way to save money is to buy a plastic funnel instead of a Hario V60. Coffee geeks like the Clever, which is about half the price.

- Makes one cup at a time.

Stacy’s tasting notes: Coffee from the V60 was my second fa-

vorite overall. I tasted the full body of the coffee first, not the water.

The equipment: Chemex drip coffee carafe. Grounds should be placed in the cone-shaped filter at the top and hot water poured over them. The wood collar with leather tie serves as an insulated handle.

Pros:

- Makes more than one cup.
- Allows control of brewing time and temperature so the coffee is just the way you like it.
- Also allows you to get up close and personal with your coffee, watching the brewing process.

Cons:

- Requires its own kind of paper filter that you can’t always find at the grocery store.
- You have to baby your coffee, watching the kettle for the right temperature and wetting the filter before adding coffee.
- Although it’s manual, it requires more equipment, including a scale and kettle.

Stacy’s tasting notes: I tasted the water first, coffee second. Although it had a clean-water taste, that’s what I didn’t like about it.

DRIP: ONE-CUP (Best for divided households and for those who don’t want it strong.)

The equipment: A cup of premeasured grounds is inserted into your single-serving machine.

Pros:

- You can have hot cider one day, coffee another, hot chocolate another.
- No mess from grounds when using prepackaged cups.
- Fast.

Cons:

- Wasteful to use disposable

cups.

- Expensive (roughly 60 cents per cup vs. 15 cents if you grind your own).
- Flavor is watery because extraction time is so short (1 minute).
- Coffee can be stale in the pre-packaged cups.

Stacy’s tasting notes: We replaced the Keurig K cup with an Ekobrew reusable filter and freshly ground beans. Although the cup was filled to the max, the result was still a watery, weak cup of coffee. Almost a tie with my least-favorite cup.

DRIP: MULTI-CUP (Best for a household with working parents and young kids.)

The equipment: A machine that can brew 10 cups of coffee at the magic number temperature of 200 degrees.

Pros:

- Brews a lot.
- Cone-shape filter for proper extraction.

Cons:

- Expensive

Stacy’s tasting notes: This was my third favorite cup of coffee, following the French press and V60. I could taste the coffee first, water second.

FRENCH PRESS (Best for lovers of bold coffee.)

The equipment: Stainless steel with a Pyrex glass liner.

Pros:

- Extracts oils from the coffee.
- The least-expensive method.
- Not much babying.

Cons:

- Hard to clean (it contains no filter).
- Leaves a trace of grounds in your cup.
- This isn’t the maker for you if you like more nuanced coffees.

Stacy’s tasting notes: The coffee looks like it has an oil slick on top, a characteristic of a French press

extraction. The flavor was divinely rich. My favorite!

VACUUM (Best for show-off entertainers and mad scientists.)

The equipment: Laboratory-like glass chambers heated by a flame at the bottom. Butane burners work best. Here’s how it works: Pour water into the bottom glass and insert the top chamber. Heat the burner, adjusting it for a slow boil. Water will rise into the upper glass and saturate the waiting grounds. Wait about 2 minutes for flavor to be extracted from the grounds, remove the flame, and the condensation in the bottom bowl will create a vacuum and will draw the coffee down through the tube and filter into the lower glass.

Pros:

- Looks super-cool.
- Produces a clean brew.

Cons:

- Pricey (burners need to be purchased separately).

Stacy’s tasting notes: This coffee reminded me of the brew from the Chemex. Both contain a noticeably clean taste.

PERCOLATOR (Best for those who want their home to smell just like Grandma and Grandpa’s.)

The equipment: A pot with a small chamber at the bottom close to the heat source. A vertical tube leads from this chamber to the top of the percolator. Just below the upper end of this tube is a perforated chamber for course coffee grounds.

Pros:

- Incredible aroma, like coffee potpourri.
- The price is right.

Cons:

- A harsh-tasting cup of coffee, because the water has gotten too hot (boiling point) and circulates through the grounds, causing over-extraction.

Stacy’s tasting notes: Compared with coffees brewed in the other

makers, this one tasted burned _ and this was just after it brewed. My least-favorite cup. There’s a reason these fell out of favor in the early 1970s.

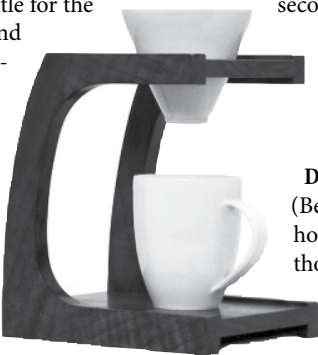
LOVE THE ONE YOU’RE WITH (BUT WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A NEW ONE)

Honestly, my \$30 coffee maker doesn’t have much going for it except that it’s cute and cheap. “It’s only got one button, which is good,” says Helt. Here’s what he advises:

- Look for the absence of unnecessary features.
- The wattage should be higher than 1,000.
- Thermal carafes are good. It keeps your coffee warm. My former maker kept it warm for hours. My new one, with a glass carafe, stays only hot (burned tasting) or cold.
- Check out the filter. You want one that requires paper filters. The permanent filters get stained with old coffee, which affects flavor. Conical ones are best.
- Invest in a burr grinder. This slices rather than smashes whole beans. Burr grinders start at about \$50.
- Keep it clean. Marty Roe of About the Coffee suggests using 1 tablespoon of citric acid (from stores such as Whole Foods) to 1 gallon of water to clean your machine a few times a month.
- Clean the pot and filter basket daily. For manual equipment, clean with liquid dishwashing detergent and rinse well. To remove coffee oils (the brown staining that is rancid coffee, not “seasoning”) Roe recommends Puro cleaner.

COFFEE-WATER RATIOS

Recommended ratio for that perfect cup: 2 tablespoons freshly ground coffee for every cup of filtered water.



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