Bears control Big 12 destiny

By Shehan Jeyarajah

No. 16 Texas Tech vs. No. 12 Baylor

Despite the perception of Oklahoma State as an offensive oriented team, the defense has stepped up and has been integral to the Bear’s current success. Defensive coordinator Mike Stoops has managed to lead the Bears to one of the most formidable defenses in the nation. The defense ranks second in total defense holding teams to only 346.0 yards per game. The defense has been much improved this season and has been integral to the Baylor offense this season. The defense has stepped up and has been a big part of the Bears success this season.

The defense ranks fourth overall in the nation in 3rd down defense, holding teams to only 150.0 rushing yards per game and has been opportunistic. The defense has created 22 turnovers, which is 6th in the nation in turnovers created. The defense has been the heart of the Bears success this season.

Junior quarterback Bryce Petty has been the hero for the Bears this season, with his electric arm leading him to be a Heisman contender. The passing and rushing attacks have been the two keys to Baylor’s success. Petty has been the leading rusher for the Cowboys this season, and they have the 12th best rushing defense. The defense has been much improved this season and has been integral to the Baylor offense this season. The defense has stepped up and has been a big part of the Bears success this season.

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Baylor offense against West Virginia on Oct. 5 at Floyd Casey Stadium. The No. 12 Bears are 5-0 and host Iowa State on Saturday. As junior quarterback Bryce Petty hands the ball off to running back Lache Seastrunk, All-American senior guard Cyril Richardson clears a path for the running back. Seastrunk has rushed for 840 yards and 12 touchdowns this season.

In the last few games, senior quarterback Bryce Petty has stepped up and has been integral to the Bears success. Petty has thrown for 2,790 yards and 21 touchdowns, which is 11th in the nation in passing offense. Petty has been the leading rusher for the Cowboys this season, and they have the 12th best rushing defense. The defense has been much improved this season and has been integral to the Baylor offense this season. The defense has stepped up and has been a big part of the Bears success this season.

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Odyssey Sims ready to step up as team leader

By Rayne Brown

Baylor senior guard Odyssey Sims was 2013 World University Games MVP, three-time Wade Watch list candidate and participant in the USA Women's National Team mini-camp.

The World University Games are equivalent to the Olympics for collegiate athletes and Sims had the opportunity to play for Team USA at this summer's games in Russia.

"The team that I was on, I was surrounded by, it was great," Sims said. "If I could go back, I would. It was a great experience. I could go and play for USA at any great opportunity.

Sims didn't just play, she helped lead the team to the semi-finals, doing enough during that time to win most valuable player.

"I didn't know it had MVP," Sims said. "That wasn't my main goal to go out there and try to get it. I was just happy more than anything to win the gold medal. That meant more than anything to me. More than getting MVP, but I was very honored."

Coming back to the States with experience, an MVP title and a gold medal, Sims was invited to the USA Women's National Team mini-camp Oct. 3-6 in Las Vegas.

According to an article on baylorbears.com, "the camp [was] used to identify players for the USA National Team pool from which the 2013 USA World Championship Team will be selected."

Sims attended the camp along with former Lady Bears Brittney Griner and Sophia Young.

"I was kind of nervous being around all of these WNBA players that I actually look up to," Sims said. "Tamika Catchings, she really helped me. She guided me every day I was there. She told me what to do. Looking up to them, seeing what they were doing and then trying to incorporate it. I kind of took leading a lot better than I had been doing since I've been here."
Kansas has a solid defense, but West Virginia’s potent offense can match up well because of how disrupitve forwards. The Mountaineers have scored 30 goals this season, eighth most in the NCAA. Senior forward Kate Schwindel, who was honored offensive player of the week, and Francois Dike leading the team with 10 goals. Silva also is tied in NCAA with 11 assists. West Virginia can cut the regular season for the second year in a row a take care of business.

There’s nothing like wanting to see what other teams do in conference play, so at our point, our plan is to control our own destiny and take care of what we can take care of.” Montana coach Nikki Inter-Brown said. “If we execute our plan, we should be good. We’re really taking this season game by game right now. What we have to do is take care of 60 minutes on Friday. That’s what really important.

It will be interesting for West Virginia because of Senior Night, honoring Kim Blosser, Sarah Kamara, Frances Silva and Caroline Szwed. Of course, we want to win for our seniors, too,” Inter-Brown said. “This is a lot of Mountainair pride that will hopefully come out and support what these four seniors have done for this program, this state and the University. All four seniors are spectacular.”

Another Big 12 match-up Barry North has a lot to look out for a TCU at in Stillwater. Texas is second in the conference with a 4-1 record, with one loss against West Virginia. Texas has a stout backline and also has a height advantage, meaning that Oklahoma is going to need to find some creativity in the air.

Baylor is playing well in all aspects of the game, with its defense leading the Big 12 in shutouts with 12. The Bears only have four matches remaining before the Big 12 tournament. The Bears only have four matches before the Big 12 tournament. The Bears only have four matches before the Big 12 tournament. The Bears only have four matches before the Big 12 tournament. The Bears only have four matches before the Big 12 tournament.

The Cowgirls’ in-state rival Oklahoma has struggled to the Big 12 with a 4-4 confidence record and 3-1-1 overall. The Sooners will travel to Fort Worth to take on TCU, which is coming off its first Big 12 win of the season after a 1-0 victory against Kansas. Both teams have struggled defensively, but Oklahoma will do itself some favors by giving up almost twice the number of goals scored. The offense has only been able to generate 13 goals this season and nailed in its major Big 12. TCU has had problems offensively, but by playing enough pressure it can win.

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Senior tight end Jordan Najvar dives over a Buffalo defender on Sept. 7. Baylor won the game 70-13.

The Baylor defense makes a play on the ball against Wofford on Aug. 31.

Antwan Goodley gets tackled after making a catch against Buffalo on Sept. 7.

Jamal Palmer attempts to sack ULM’s quarterback on Sept. 21.

Running back Lache Seastrunk...
Jordan Najvar dives over a Buffalo defender on Sept. 7. Baylor won the game 70-13. (Right) The Baylor defense makes a play on the ball against Wofford on Aug. 31.
Courageous. Determined. Passionate. Those are the words many use to describe senior midfielder Larissa Campos, who has overcome many obstacles to pursue her dream of playing soccer.

As a talented basketball and soccer player in high school, Campos had never shied away from success and has continuously pushed herself to be the best.

When Campos arrived to Baylor, she had her whole future in front of her, but one injury changed everything. With 14 games under her belt, Campos sustained a season-ending knee injury, affecting her soccer career as well as her faith.

"That rocked my world a lot," Campos said. "I've heard of people tearing their ACL's, but I didn't really know how serious of an injury it was.

Soccer was life. Ever since she received training from her youth coaches, Tito and Zico, her identity had been tied to soccer. Despite the circumstances, the way she handled her situation has inspired her sister, sophomore Bri Campos.

"What she's been through as an athlete with her knee and everything that she had to overcome, is very honorable," Bri Campos said. "I respect that about her and how she handled those situations throughout her career."

During her sophomore year, Larissa Campos took a medical redshirt. The adjustment was difficult because she didn't want to be on the bench. Her dream to play soccer was halted, but she wouldn't trade her experience. Her goal is to be an inspiration to others.

"It sparked my passion in my faith and to continue to inspire others by coaching soccer," Campos said. "I think it's good for both of us because we both have competitive natures. It pushes us to be better and one up each other, but it's in a healthy way, pushing us to improve on and off the field."

During her time at Baylor, Campos has learned to play with heart.

"Being able to put my cleats on every day is a blessing," Larissa Campos said. "It changes the way I play. I always play like it's my last game."

Her competitive nature adds another element to the team. Growing up, her parents always pushed her and Bri to be competitive and worked that into their game. As they grew up, they began to emulate each other.

"It's a lot of fun playing with her," Bri Campos said. "I think it's good for both of us because we both have competitive natures. It pushes us to be better and one up each other, but it's in a healthy way, pushing us to improve on and off the field."

Campos wants to leave a legacy, as Baylor's soccer teams in the future can continue playing with edge, because talent isn't everything.

"The goal is to be an inspiration to others," Campos said. "This season, Campos has been effective off the bench, giving Baylor the extra offense it's looking for with two goals and an assist in its transition to committee scoring.

Camps' love of soccer will always remain a part of her. The injury inspired her passion even more to continue following God's plan for her and to continue to be an inspiration to others.

"I hope to continue to inspire others by coaching soccer," Campos said.
Rosenbaum steps up for Baylor volleyball

By Shehan Jeyarajah
Sports Writer

“Players are basically the quartermbacks of the volleyball team,” junior middle hitter Nicole Bardaji said. “They tell us what to do and they talk to the defense and tell what kind of passes they need. They have a big impact on the game.”

Sophomore setter Amy Rosenbaum has been relied on in this season to be the starting setter for the first time in her collegiate career, and she has delivered big results. In Big 12 play, Rosenbaum is third in the conference with 10.82 assists per set and second among underclassmen.

“When I was a redshirt freshman, Amy was really relied on to be a leader. Now I have to adjust to being the leader,” Bardaji said. “Our old setter, Kate Harris, was really, really quick with her sets. Amy’s are a little slower but you know exactly what kind of passes she needs. Amy’s are a little slower but you know exactly what kind of passes she needs.”

“Moving to being a starting setter is a lot about confidence,” Rosenbaum said. “It’s not really about how to set the ball. It’s about how to run the offense and learning what each hitter needs. I’m not going to say it’s easy, but it makes it easier that I love my teammates.”

Rosenbaum’s teammates have loved her right back.

“My relationship with Amy is tremendous,” Bardaji was quick to compliment Rosenbaum on her performance for Baylor.

“Every setter has a different type of play and different styles,” Bardaji said. “Our old setter, Kate Harris, was really, really quick with her sets. Amy’s are a little slower which I love. She is very mischievous as a setter. When it comes to who she’s going to set, she really tricky the blockers on the other side. She forces me to always be ready because I never know if she is going to set me which is awesome.”

Rosenbaum’s teammates have had to step up on this team. She has a big role as a setter and has had to learn how to play a new position right on the court. She is a tremendously talented setter.”

Jim Barnes | Head coach

This season has been a rough one for Baylor volleyball. In the second match of the season, the Bears lost freshman phenom outside hitter Katie Staiger to a season-ending knee injury. The Bears have fallen to 9-12 on the season and 1-4 in the Big 12. Despite the troubles, it has been essential in building for the future.

“Young players like Rosenbaum have had to step up on this team,” head volleyball coach Jim Barnes said. “She has a big role as a setter and has had to learn how to play the position right on the court.”

“It’s a new role for me,” Rosenbaum said of her performance. “Last year, I was really relied on to be the lead person. It’s a challenge I love because I know I can do it.”

“I think I’ve played well,” Rosenbaum ventured in four matches in 2012, but only major minutes in two. This season, she has been thrust into a starting role and has started at setter in all of Baylor’s 21 matches this season. She is one of only three players on the team to have played in every Baylor set this season.

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Baylor has three sophomores who have started 14 or more matches this season: outside hitters Thea Munch-Soegaard and Laura Staiger and sophomore Andie Malloy, who are two of the best outside hitters in the country. You have to feel really good about our future with Amy leading the way.”

Amy Rosenbaum and Baylor volleyball return at 1 p.m. Saturday against Oklahoma at the Ferrell Center. The Bears host Oklahoma at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Ferrell Center.

Sophomore setter Amy Rosenbaum prepares to set the ball to a teammate on Wednesday night against TCU at the Ferrell Center. The Bears host Oklahoma at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Ferrell Center.
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