

Arts & Entertainment

Friday | February 21, 2014

B1

The Baylor Lariat



CONSTANCE ATTON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Delta Delta Delta's Egyptian-themed show "Take Me to the Pyramids" is one of the Lariat choices for "Reviewer's Darling" for precision and creativity.



CONSTANCE ATTON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Kappa Omega Tau's 2014 production "The Battle Within" was chosen as one of the Lariat favorites because of their innovative storytelling.

Students SING their hearts out

By TAYLOR GRIFFIN
NEWS EDITOR

As a newbie to the tradition hype that is All-University Sing, it certainly has been interesting to observe the Baylor culture in this way: guys in eyeliner studying in the library, girls complaining about late nights and the overarching sense of competition in the fresh February air.

After research into past years and hearsay from peers, I have envisioned the elements of a perfect Sing act: a mix of current and old school music that is creatively chosen and has purpose; inflated energy throughout; a motivated plot that is driven without force, costumes and props that intensify; and a compelling, innovative theme.

KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA "Running Wild"



Kappa began the night in the heart of the African savannah, and in their attempt at paying homage to the artistic Broadway version of "The Lion King," one thing is for certain: Kappa is not the most vocally talented.

Besides the tribal, militaristic choreography that suited the theme, I didn't see that incredible energy until the end. On top of which, the music didn't flow as well together as Kappa's competitors.

The act had a host of vibrant props and a gorgeous backdrop, but the bobbing giraffes in the back resembled the likes of two Burger King chicken fries.

I applaud them for taking a risk with the elaborate key change in a mash-up version of Katy Perry's "Roar," but using the top 40 current hit, "Pompeii," was a mistake. Did they listen to the lyrics? Nothing about it screams "Hakuna Matata."



PI BETA PHI & PHI KAPPA CHI "Romeo and Juliet"



I think the Bard of Avon would approve of this retelling.

It was certainly a bold move for "Pi Phi Chi" to take on such an intricate production, but they delivered. The partner work was the best of the evening, and acting montages truly forwarded the storyline.

However, those boys need to cool it with the facials. And if you're going to take on a lead singing role, the least you could do is enunciate your lyrics.

The group executed transitions well with minimal bumping, but the general choreography lost a bit of momentum throughout.

My biggest annoyance was the interesting choice to use silk blue and burnt orange, and from the audience, it took away more than it gave to the performance.

ZETA TAU ALPHA "Rescue Me"



If there's one thing Zetas know how to do, it's how to entertain a crowd.

From the mom jeans to the human hamster wheel, there was never a dull moment in their pet shop routine. A round of applause is in order for the creative music selection and choice of mixing at the end.

The cutesy pet shop theme, though different, wasn't the most inventive

of the night and took away from the group's superb showmanship prowess. Plus, the singing was a bit shaky opening night.

Zetas are fearless on stage and know how to put on a good show. With a better theme, they would no doubt have stolen Sing.

KAPPA SIGMA "How We Roll"



Is it possible for a Sing performance to be both gritty and dapper? Apparently, this group can make it happen.

I was wondering how long it would take for a Gatsby reference to show up in one of the acts. Thank you to Kappa Sig for giving it justice.

Whether they were attempting a hat tip at the Prohibition Era or just an old-timey gambler scene, these guys were on fire from the start — don't worry, I saw those day-old copies of the Lariat in hand. While props were in shorter supply than others, these guys committed to every single movement of the routine. I absolutely couldn't keep my eyes off the stage long enough to put my pen to the paper.



KAPPA CHI ALPHA "Foreverland"



Girls running around the stage screaming? No, thanks. Aside from that, it was the choice of music that really threw me off, and they lost me with the Willy Wonka/Peter Pan mash-up opener. Of course, it was only a matter of time before a group pulled out the first One Direction tune.

The choreography ventured outside of the typical box steps and jazz hands. However, sometimes it's better to stick to the simple choreography than to dive head first into pirouette turns that only half the group can land.

The performance itself made for great storytelling elements that were executed clearly. I could have done without the incessant squealing though.

It really was cute, but the other elements within the routine just didn't equal to success.

PI KAPPA PHI "Nightmare on Fifth Street"



Despite working with a backdrop that reeked of Color by Numbers, this performance had lots of potential to be more ghostly with maybe a little more practice — and latex prosthetics.

Excellent and eclectic choice of songs made for a more intriguing story. Bonus point for the Fall Out Boy addition; it added range and grunge to the mix.

But they sold me on with the blacklit, Morphsuited skeletons. I'm a sucker for a good pop-and-lock section only if done expertly, which trust me, they don't disappoint.

The rest was lackluster, but darn it if they charmed me.



ALPHA DELTA PI & BETA UPSILON CHI "Rescue Me"



This act had great potential to be incredibly adorable, but I was a tad disappointed with the misuse of material. The concept lends itself to a heck of a lot of clever songs, but the ones chosen didn't heighten the act to its competitors.

The beginning made me only slightly uncomfortable with the unintentional alluding to sexual harassment in the workplace, but I can brush it off as character acting.

It just looked like too many folks on stage that weren't put to good use, but those side floor lights were a nice touch though. The lead singing, too, was correctly casted.

Overall, the performance just never took off from the ground. In a word, it was underwhelming. In a phrase, if you can't A Capella, don't.



CHI OMEGA "Mom's Gone, Party's On"



OK, so while Chi-O knows how to perform, there's one big thing that stops me from giving a higher rating.

I would venture to guess that when Chi-O met to choose the theme, they had to vote on either '90s throwback, house party and "Home Alone." Then one girl raised her hand and had the genius idea of combining all three.

Bad move, Chi-O. Bad indeed.

This scatterbrained, caffeinated cluster on stage had me confused from the start. The dancing and props were sharp and well done for sure, but sometime during the countless hours of practice, they lost the element of plot. In short, it was a tornado of 20-too-many hair scrunchies and lack of organization.

Chi-O, congrats on your "originality." Next, please.



DELTA TAU DELTA "The Delta Boys"



What happens when you throw together a Sing routine but somehow manage to all get the same color windbreaker? The Deltas, and it was fantastic.

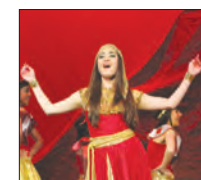
The backdrop was a little confusing, and at times, the performance was so awkward it hurt. However, they did answer the age-old question: How does one solve the battle between N'SYNC and Backstreet Boys? Singing a Hanson song of reconciliation.

But this performance had its high points. Yes, the boy band image was thrown around a lot, but did no one see the actual breakdancing battle in the back? It was nuts.

Despite the lemonade stand in the back, they rocked their floody-water purple drawers.



DELTA DELTA DELTA "Take Me to the Pyramids"



Let me just say, TriDeltas went to work on that stage, on so many levels.

These girls ooze theater, exactly the make-up of a perfect Sing act. The chill bumps hurt my arms as they strutted.

They utilized the dancers in their group and nailed it severely. While black bobs may not be for everyone, TriDelt knew exactly where to fill in the gaps. Just when I thought the Steve Martin "King Tut" reference topped it off, Cleopatra is brought out on a throne and leads the ensemble in a uproar of Beyonce girl power.

They brought the whole act home by using a Tina Turner classic to mention the Nile River, which was incredibly creative.

Brava, TriDelt. You had my attention even from the camel at the beginning.

KAPPA OMEGA TAU "The Battle Within"



Exactly where do we begin with KOT? That's a loaded question, but it's one that always comes in full circle: these guys know what works.

With the most compelling concept of the night, they are the epitome of effective storytelling and precisely why people keep coming back to Sing year after year.

In particular, the mirror work with the Jekylls and Hydes proved for a chilling addition to this already frightfully exceptional act. This group hustles around the stage like it's their job. They not only interest the audience; they grab them in a chokehold of curiosity and leave them absolutely awestruck.

You want a performance, Baylor? You got one.

SEE **REVIEWS**, page B3

Photos By: Constance Atton, Carlye Thornton, Travis Taylor



Delta Delta Delta's 1979 performance "Singing to Victory with the USO" finished with sparklers onstage in Waco Hall.



University Chaplain Dr. Burt Burleson helped choreograph and lead Baylor Chamber of Commerce in their 1980 performance "After Hours."



Kappa Omega Tau's performance "The Toys are Back in Town" brought energy and bright costumes to the 2010 All-University Sing.

From the vault: Fans reveal favorite Sing acts

By KAT WORRALL
REPORTER

What makes a good All-University Sing act great? Judges look at five main elements — entertainment value, musical quality, choreography, theme development and creativity. While most top acts have a solid combination of all five, there is often one that dominates the others — an exceptional soloist, a never-before-seen dance trick or maybe a tear-jerking theme.

As the 61st Sing begins, Baylor's professors, alumni and current Sing chairs take a look back on the best acts of the past and what element made those acts excel.

Entertainment value is the largest category for judges, and that is what Grant Clinkingbeard, one of Phi Kappa Chi's Sing chairs, believes was best about his favorite act, Kappa Kappa Gamma and Kappa Sigma's 2008 first-place act, "On the Town." Their act centered on a night out dancing after navy officers returned from a tour, Clinkingbeard said.

"They did a fantastic job of keeping me entertained the entire time," Clinkingbeard said. "There was always something going on and never a lull. I felt like I was at wherever it was that they were dancing and having fun."

Kappa Kappa Gamma and Kappa Sigma quickly moved their combined dancers on and off stage. Even 10 to 15 seconds of transition can bore an audience and hurt entertainment value, Clinkingbeard said. With Phi Kappa Chi partnering with Pi Beta Phi this year, he has used that act as inspiration on how to avoid an empty stage during transitions and keep the audience engaged.

"When it was over, it felt like it just started because you had been entertained the entire time," Clinkingbeard said.

Sing Alliance president Kellie Hooker also saw a high level of entertainment in another first-place act, Kappa Omega Tau's 2010 "The Toys are Back in Town." "No matter how much you know the choreography and it's clean, if you're not having fun with it and not bringing the energy — that's what took it from a good act to a really great one," Hooker said.

Hooker, who as costume chair for Sing Alliance designs their costumes, also enjoyed Kappa Omega Tau's creative spin on "Toy Story" and the costumes for each character, like the army men, raggedy Andy dolls and the cowboys.

"You knew exactly what they were," Hooker said. "The costumes made it feel that much more real."

Creativity is what set apart 1975 graduate and Roots owner Barb Williams' favorite act. Williams has many favorite Sing memories, like seeing her son's solo during his Phi Gamma Delta act and witnessing

her Greek alma mater, Kappa Kappa Gamma, do their signature act, "Kappa arms," for the first time.

However, her favorite was the first-place 1973 act by Phi Kappa Alpha — now known as Sigma Alpha Epsilon — titled "Sgt. Pepper's Make Your Own Kind of Music Down by the Bandstand Smiling Singing Band."

The act was based off the 1967 Beatles album, "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," and Phi Kappa Alpha dressed like a band just as the Beatles had on the album cover. What made the act stand out at the time was it had a band on stage with members playing Beatles music with the drums and trumpet, Williams said. Instead of crisp movements, Phi Kappa Alpha's choreography was also more lively, she said.

"When you have Beatles music, you have to do something fun," she said.

Alpha Tau Omega's head sing chair Pierce Shivers drew choreography inspiration from Sigma Chi's 1984 first-place act, "Basement Full of Blues." Sigma Chi's charter at Baylor was dissolved in 2010 due to violations.

"I saw it last year when we were planning our saloon act and we wanted to take a few elements from them," Shivers said. "It's really fast paced and very entertaining. There's never a dull moment."

Male dancers are often considered "lesser dancers" than female dancers, Shivers said, but seeing the Sigma Chis doing such a fast, clean and difficult dance impressed him. Sigma Chi even performed the act at the halftime of a sold-out Dallas Mavericks game and received a standing ovation from the crowd at Reunion Arena, according to the 1985 Round Up.

"I've watched a lot of Sing acts all the way back to 1980 and that act was ahead of its time dance-wise and choreography-wise," Shivers said. "I'd say in recent years we've seen a really big dance element added to sing and that act in 1984 had all of those things when maybe others didn't. That's what I think set it apart."

Just as Shivers views Sigma Chi's act as a dancing breakthrough for men's groups, Dr. Bradley Lail, assistant professor of accounting and 1998 alumnus, said his favorite act, Kappa Alpha Theta's 1996 "All in a Day's Work," introduced a new style of dancing for women's groups.

"What was interesting to me back then was the girls were always good, but it was always the guys that either knocked your socks off or made you laugh because it was so bad — but they knew it was bad too," he said.

Kappa Alpha Theta's firefighter themed act was full of drama, lighting and scenery, but it was their more powerful, masculine form of dancing that captured Lail.

Theta did not place in the top three but did go to Pigskin Revue, which was a shock to many of the stu-

dents who believed it was a top three act, Lail said. Shannon King, a Kappa Kappa Gamma Sing chair, said she the theme development helped Kappa Sigma's 2013 "United We Stand" act tie for first-place.

"With theme development, people always say, 'Aim your act so that a 5-year old understands,'" King said.

The theme does not have to be detailed or intense, just understandable, she said.

"People just have to connect to it," King said. "That theme did, even though it was about the American Revolution. I think people can connect to military at all times."

Kappa Sigma's mix of intense choreography and singing with slower songs also impressed King.

"I think that takes a lot to do if you have a slow song and to make it engaging and entertaining and still powerful," she said.

Alumna Dr. Debra Burleson member of Delta Delta Delta and senior lecturer in the MIS department, used a special prop during her favorite Sing act that is banned from use today — sparklers. Any use of pyrotechnic effects has since been prohibited due to safety hazards, according to Cheryl Mathis, Assistant Director of Campus Programs.

Members of Delta Delta Delta dressed in red, white and blue, stood in front of a similarly colored backdrop and lit the sparklers at the end of their 1979 "Singing to Victory with the USO" act. Musical quality placed an important role in this historical tribute, Dr. Debra Burleson said.

The music contrasted between upbeat marching songs and mellow reflective songs about the troops being away, Dr. Debra Burleson said. With strong vocals and good back ups, it fit together with the costumes and backdrop.

"If it's historical information or witty or even if it is more of a serious tone, you just want it to tell a story and almost get lost in it," Dr. Debra Burleson said. "When it's over, you're thinking, 'Oh, I don't want it to end!'"

Delta Delta Delta's act tied for third place that year and memorabilia from the act was showcased in the Student Union Building during Homecoming 2013.

University Chaplain Dr. Burt Burleson said he has a slight bias toward his favorite Sing act, Chamber of Commerce's 1980 "After Hours," since he was one of the choreographers and Sing chairs. Dr. Burt Burleson, who has been watching Sing since high school, joked that Sing was even "his major" while at Baylor.

"After Hours" was about waiters in a 1940's club who begin singing while wiping off tables at the end of the day. As the last song ended, Chamber's performers walked off stage and turned off the lights like they were shutting down the club. The different ending as well as the music and vocal talent helped Chamber win first place, Dr. Burt Burleson said.

Musical quality is an important part of Sing to Dr. Burt Burleson and he said he believes groups should look back at past acts to improve current acts.

"We didn't depart musically from the theme and I view that as one of the major mistakes people make," Dr. Burt Burleson said. "Whatever their theme is, sailors and ships or whatever, instead of doing music from WWII, they drag in some contemporary music and I think that's a mistake."

Sing acts commonly feature popular rock or hip-hop music, but Dr. Burt Burleson said it is a good chord progression that makes you want to dance.

"If the people in the audience are sort of pining themselves, wishing to be up there, that's when you know you've got the right song," he said.

As this year's Sing begins, participants can gain inspiration on how to make their act great by learning from the past and staying ahead of the future.

"Every now and then an act comes along that's different," Dr. Burt Burleson said. "It opens up pathways for other acts for years to come."



LARIAT FILE PHOTO

Piled Higher & Deeper Ph.D.



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Difficulty: Hard

2	1		3		8			
	6		2					
8	4				1			
7				2				
	8	9	4	6				
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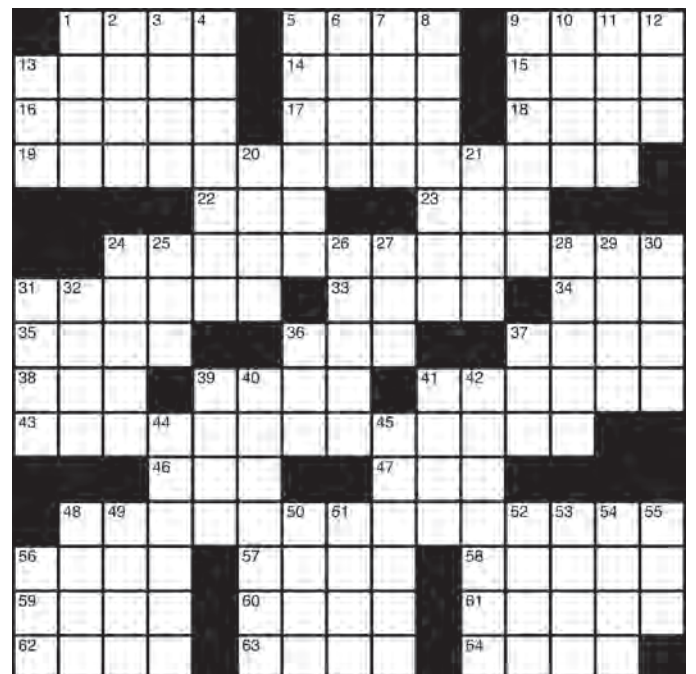
Across

- Club
- Eat
- Film
- Sleep
- Mata
- "I'm ___ you!"
- "___ to please!"
- ___-stevan
- SWAT
- Blank
- ___ of bounds
- Electric
- Blank
- "It ___ to reason"
- "You're taking a big ___"
- ___-TURN
- Good for what ___ you
- Costa del ___
- ___ Elevator Company
- "I Like ___"
- ___ the scales
- San Diego
- Blank
- Hopping
- Jacqueline Kennedy ___
- Bouvier
- Blank
- Quod ___ demonstrandum
- ___ to one's senses
- Shed
- ___-Honey
- "Rock of ___"
- From beyond the ___
- ___ nuts
- "___-a-Cop": 1988 film
- "Jane ___"

Down

- X-Ray ___: U.K. punk band
- Take ___: doze
- Golda
- "It's the ___ story"
- ___ of drawers
- Shankar
- Cakesters
- ___ circle
- motel
- "A Room of ___ Own"

Answers at www.baylorlariat.com



- "Take ___ a compliment"
- CD-___
- "I'm in ___": "Wow!"
- Soap
- ___ and potato soup
- Van
- Carry-___: luggage
- Victoria
- Olive
- ___-level
- Peau de ___: satin-weave cloth
- ___ 22-Across: solve
- Set
- ___ torch
- Day
- "___ to Joy"
- Suit
- Series: auto races
- ___-à-porter: ready-to-wear

- Joe
- Caveat
- Civil ___: protest
- Canal
- ___ for life
- Rib
- "___ to that!"
- "Lord knows ___!"
- Abby
- ___ birth to
- "... ___ I saw Elba"
- ___ and flow

REVIEWS from Page B1

BETA THETA PI
"Crazy In Love"



You were right, Beta. It was crazy for trying, but boy, did you show us.

I'm still not convinced this was their debut Sing performance since 1973.

They not only did well; they completely gave a new definition of a comeback. Quite impressive, I might say. Beta clearly has a lot of hidden talent that's finally ready to be aired out on the stage. The front man absolutely stole the show. They did tell the sweetest (or looniest?) story of the night, but I'm positive Sing enthusiasts have a lot to look forward to in the coming years with Beta. They showed up to win and did it in a big way.

ALPHA TAU OMEGA
"Scotland the Brave"



Hello, biceps. This was the one group that I can attest to that fully got into their choreography. I've never seen such high knees-to-chest jogging in my life.

While the front row maybe saw a little too much under-kilt, these guys obviously had a blast yawping around the stage ripping off the "Braveheart" motif.

Those guys gave every ounce of oomph they brought up there. It wasn't the strongest ending, and the performance faded out at the end; perhaps waving a white flag in surrender?

SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON
"Lifeguard"



Will the Real Slim Sharky please stand up? Sorry, I'm allowed only one bad pun.

They employ the art of carelessness, and they ooze arrogance. Somehow, it's much more honest than the other acts.

Their traditional ploys (i.e. the serenading recorder ensemble) are far more endearing than other groups' squealing with each formation change. I lost it when the human shark graced us with a melodic "Ave Maria." And did anyone else catch the horse mask on the lifeguard stand?

Their debauchery makes me smile.

SING ALLIANCE
"Summer Fun Has Just Begun"



Call it a little corny, maybe even campy, but Sing Alliance has the right stuff.

The minute the music drops, their energy levels are through the roof. Props to this group for accurately describing the counselors at my old summer camp: sugary-sweet yet ever so slightly obnoxious. Some of the members seem to enjoy Sing a little too much, but is that such a bad thing? The lead singers were some of the best of the night. Every one of those performers were exactly where they wanted to be, and they should be applauded for their kooky, caffeine-induced hard work.



ALPHA CHI OMEGA
"O, Sister Where Art Thou?"



Honestly, I really wanted to like Alpha Chi's ode to the jail cell. They had the set up, crazy bluegrass chops and "Chicago"-esque props to boot, but there was hardly any variety or change from the sharp choreography.

They really used their dancers in the group in the right places, so for the performance to just be "meh" was a letdown. And the PowerPoint mug shots? Overkill, and it took away from the spectacle on stage. The songs had absolutely no attaching qualities with each other except that it sounded like the top five country songs in someone's iPod.



KAPPA ALPHA THETA
"Happily Ever After"



If you're going to go full-fledged theater, don't cut corners. Take a note or two from Theta in that area.

Theta's first minute or so sets up the intensity of the act. Their fairy-tale could have taken a turn for the tacky. I'm still trying to figure out what purpose the white circles under the eyes served.

The excellent music choices definitely added to the punk chic motif.

Seriously though, the opening was delightfully creepy and certainly had more production value than most of the acts I saw.

While their performance may have come off as more sugar than their intended spice at times, the group pulled it together seamlessly.

Participants juggle school, life, Sing

By IAN CURRIE
REPORTER

Every year as the All-University Sing competition draws near, the Baylor campus readies itself for a festival of music, culture and memorable performances. The nights are filled with wonder as performances crafted over six weeks of intense preparation are realized on stage.

But there is a worrying downside to the Sing festivities. In classrooms across campus, students are finding academic life increasingly hard. In common areas and lounges, friends hardly see each other outside of Sing commitments. Beds remain unused for long periods. The library is frequented less regularly.

Mumbles in early morning classes all point to a common theme: Sing preparation is such a dominating factor in participant's lives that they have little time for anything else — even areas of their lives that could be regarded as a priority.

Wichita Falls junior Logan Long pointed to three areas of her life that suffered neglect due to Sing: sleep, social life and grades. Long has practiced for six weeks with four two-hour practices each week. As a result of this intense schedule Long said her focus on academics has dwindled.

"I missed tutoring sessions, supplemental instruction or just didn't have time to do homework or study," Long said, "I didn't get a good amount of sleep."

Maxey Parrish, senior lecturer in the department of journalism, public relations and new media, said there is no doubt that Sing hurts grades.

"Unlike other extra-curricular activities like athletics, there is no infrastructure of support for students partaking in Sing," Parrish said.

While athletes have tutoring systems and study time, Sing participants have to find their own way through the often treacherous waters of more than half of a semester dedicated to Sing.

"Some students pull it off, but most

struggle academically as a result of Sing," Parrish said.

Waco junior Grayson Wolf, who took part in 2013's Pigskin Revue, said he also dedicated many hours to the cause of learning a routine. He said he also suffered similar academic problems.

"I was often exhausted from having to do homework late at night," Wolf said. "I often had to stay up late to study for a test the next day."

Wolf said professors attempt to be sympathetic to students, but can only give a certain amount of leeway as not everyone partakes in Sing.

"I try to be understanding when students have Sing commitments, but it cannot be an excuse to not keep up with their work," Parrish said.

Wolf said another area of his life that suffered during Sing preparation was his social life.

"There is less time to pursue relationships that exist outside of Sing," Wolf said. "If your friends aren't doing Sing with you, you probably won't have any time to see them at all."

Sing takes a massive toll on the lives of its participants, often to negative effect. It is such a huge commitment that students lose the balance that a productive university life often requires.

Parrish has found that while Sing is wonderful, it often results in misplaced priorities.

"Some students delay graduation due to Sing," Parrish said. "Some students skip internships so they can do Sing."

Wolf is one of many students that struggle to cope during the Sing period.

"The time constraints and stress, physically, mentally and academically, make it almost not worth it," Wolf said.

However, both Wolf and Long have said they thoroughly enjoyed their experience of preparing and taking part in the event.

"It's definitely an experience that a Baylor student should have at least once," Wolf said.

Lariat Reviewer's Darling:

- Kappa Sigma - "How We Roll"
- Delta Delta Delta - "Take Me to the Pyramids"

Lariat Favorite:

- Kappa Omega Tau - "The Battle Within"
- Alpha Tau Omega - "Scotland the Brave"



PREVIEW SOUTHWESTERN

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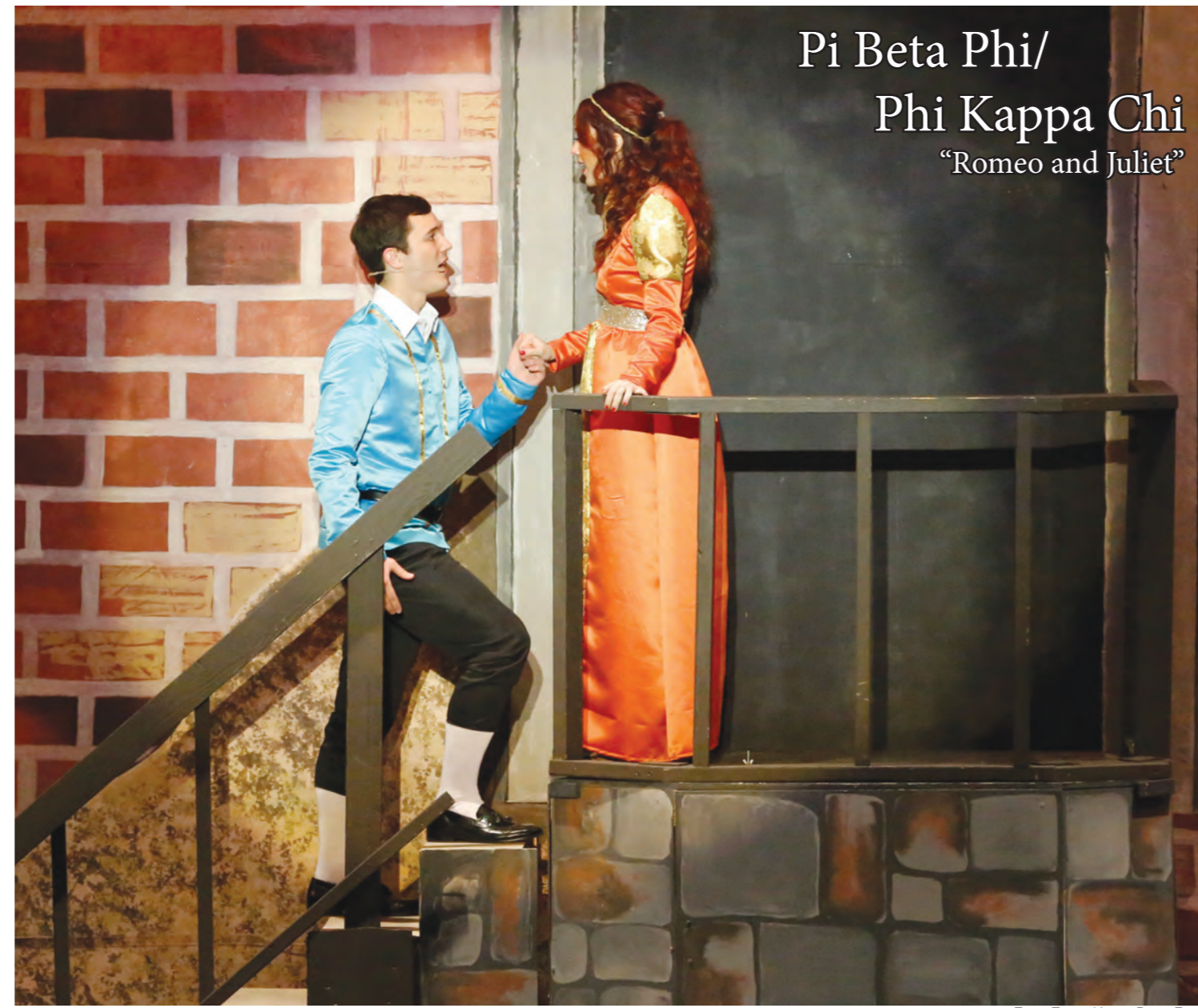
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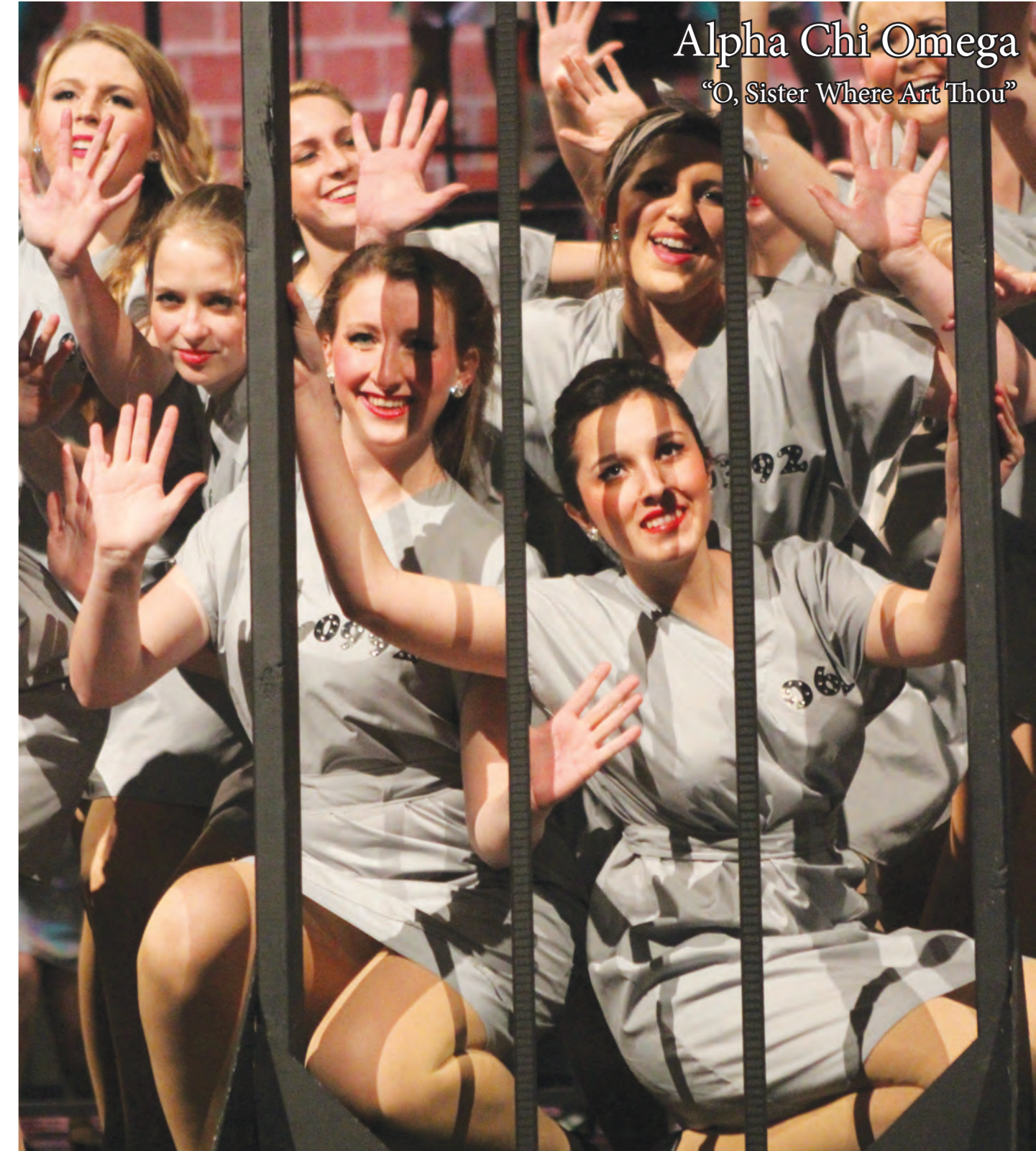

Ready... Set... *Sing*



Pi Beta Phi/
Phi Kappa Chi
"Romeo and Juliet"



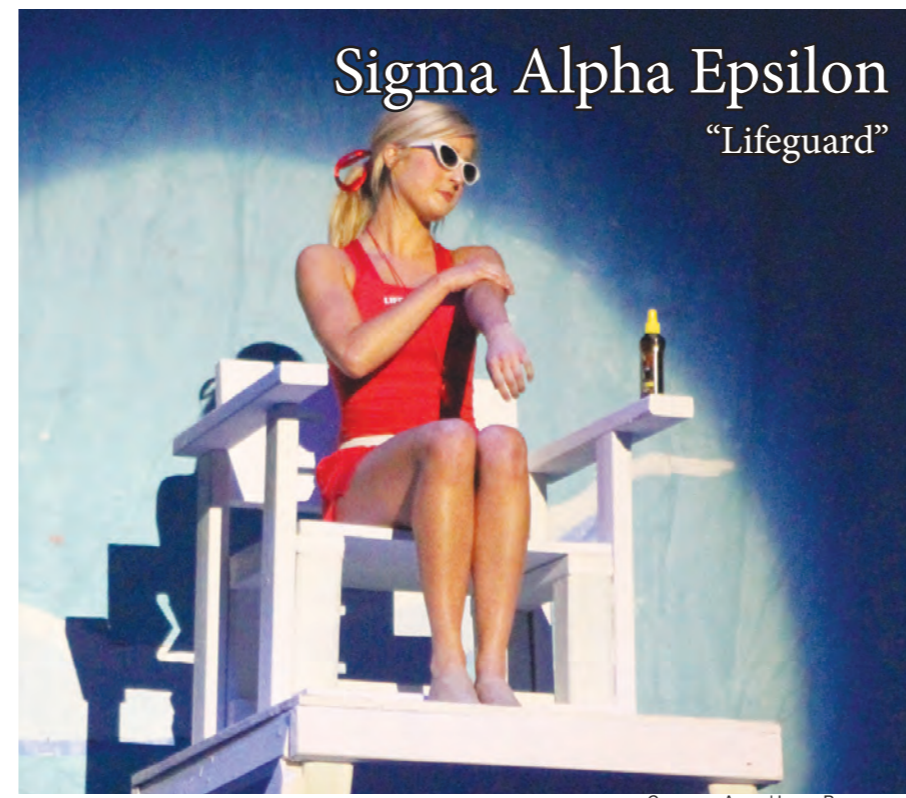
Pi Kappa Phi
"Nightmare on 5th Street"



Alpha Chi Omega
"O, Sister Where Art Thou"



Kappa Sigma
"How We Roll"



Sigma Alpha Epsilon
"Lifeguard"



Kappa Chi Alpha
"Foreverland"



Beta Theta Pi
"Crazy in Love"



Sing Alliance
"Summer fun
has just begun"



Kappa Kappa Gamma
"Running Wild"

Smith blessed to coach two sons on diamond

By JEFFREY SWINDOLL
SPORTS WRITER

It has all been about the wins for head coach Steve Smith. He helped make Baylor baseball into a Big 12 powerhouse. Smith is in the middle of his 20th season with the Bears, but this season marks a special new experience for him—coaching his two sons at Baylor.

Junior right-handed pitcher Ryan Smith and freshman first baseman Case Smith are both members of Baylor's baseball team and are coached by their father at the collegiate level.

While this is Smith's 20th year as Baylor head coach, it is not his 20th year of being a Bear. Smith graduated from Baylor in 1986 and was inducted into the Baylor Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006.

Baylor is not just a part of Smith's chosen profession, it is part of his life and family.

Growing up as the coach's son and attending Baylor games as a child, Case, now 19 years old, said playing with Ryan and for his dad has been something he has dreamed of for many years now and is thrilled that his dream is now a reality.

"It's been a goal of mine since I was a little kid to play with my brother and with my dad," Case said. "It's always been an expectation of mine. Just being here, to finally be on the field, it's just a dream."

Ryan, at 21 years old, is in his third season playing for his dad. Ryan got a taste of what it was like to have family on the team, but now with his only brother practicing and playing alongside him, he said it is better than ever.

"It's been pretty surreal for me the past two years, and now with Case joining the team, it's even gone to a whole new level," Ryan said. "This year's really going to be exciting and we're both looking forward to it."

Even with family on the roster, Coach Smith still has a team to manage, and winning is always the expectation. Coaches have had their sons be a part of the team several times in the past, but having two sons on the same team at the same time is a rare occurrence.

"I don't think we've ever [played another team with two coach's sons] before," Ryan said. "For both of us, it'll be pretty cool."

From the outside, thinking the coach is giving preference to his sons is an easy speculation to make.

With that said, it may be tricky for Coach Smith approaching his job with objective evaluation when his two sons are in that mix. Ryan and Case feel they are treated the

same way as others on the team from Coach Smith.

"[Coach Smith] treats us with respect and treats everybody else with respect," Ryan said. "He doesn't really play favorites. He's really just trying to put the best nine players on the field and win some ball games."

Being the coach's son comes with a challenge to be fair to others, but Ryan said being the coach's son also comes with an expectation of greatness from the head coach that no other players may have.

At the end of the day, Ryan and Case are Smith's two sons, and he wants them to be the very best they can be.

"He does expect more of us off the field obviously," Ryan said. "From a dad's perspective, yes he does expect a lot from us on the field as well."

Smith specializes in coaching pitchers. Naturally, both his sons became pitchers and pitch for Baylor now under him.

In the season opening series at Arizona State and in the home opener against UT-Arlington, Smith utilized four to six pitchers each game.

Ryan and Case are part of a pitching lineup that Smith has confidence will settle into a rotation in their upcoming weekend series against Austin Peay.

Case has not been on the mound yet for the Bears at home, but Smith said it is the coaching staff's intention to have starting pitchers go deeper into the next couple of games home and away.

"We'll still use common sense with all of them," Smith said. "About the next 10 days or so are going to be really interesting challenges with the staff. It will become a real test to the staff."

Smith has been coaching for years before his sons were on the team, and he has already won a Big 12 championship with Ryan on the team. Smith has proven that he knows how to manage the responsibility of being a father and a coach, and he has exemplified that he is successful at doing both.

Women's basketball head coach Kim Mulkey and her daughter, senior guard Makenzie Robertson, have been on the same team for four years now.

This season, they're looking for another Big 12 title. Mulkey has made it work with Robertson over the years.

Smith, with his two sons on the team now, is also looking to win another Big 12 title this season.

Smith is only three wins shy of achieving his 700th career victory at Baylor. After three more wins, it will be a moment the entire Smith family can celebrate together.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BAYLOR ATHLETICS

Baylor head coach Steve Smith was inducted into the Baylor Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006. Smith specializes as a pitching coach.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BAYLOR ATHLETICS

Junior Ryan Smith goes through his windup and prepares to deliver a pitch. Smith was a member of the 2012 Big 12 All-Freshman Team.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BAYLOR ATHLETICS

The Smith family enjoys being at Coors Field in 2003, the home of the MLB's Colorado Rockies. (Ryan, Case, Mrs. Smith and Coach Smith)



PHOTO COURTESY OF BAYLOR ATHLETICS

Freshman first baseman Case Smith always dreamed of having the opportunity to play baseball with his father and older brother.

Six Bears headed to the NFL Combine in Indy

By SHEHAN JEYARAJAH
SPORTS WRITER

Six Baylor football players have been invited to the 2014 NFL Draft Combine from Feb. 22-25 in Indianapolis, Ind. The six hope to join 10 other former Bears currently in the NFL by being selected in May's 2014 NFL Draft in New York City. Baylor's graduating class features two All-Americans and five All-Big 12 team members.

Cyril Richardson, OG

The redshirt senior capped off a strong career at Baylor by being named a consensus All-American and finalist for the Outland Trophy, an award given to the top interior lineman in the nation.

Richardson was listed as a first round pick early in the season, but fell off when left tackle Spencer Drango went down with injury. CBS Sports and NFL Draft Scout both have Richardson projected as a second or third round pick in April's draft.

To move up draft boards at the combine, Richardson will need to

show off his strength and prove that he can hold his own against faster defensive linemen.

Lache Seastrunk, RB

The former five-star running back and Oregon transfer opted to forego his senior season and declare for the NFL Draft. Seastrunk's stock has been inconsistent all season after suffering a groin injury against Oklahoma in November, but he likely possesses the best breakaway ability out of any running back in the Big 12 this season. CBS Sports and NFL Draft Scout both project Seastrunk as a third round pick. To move up draft boards, Seastrunk has to show off his speed and athleticism relative to other players. A slow 40-yard dash time could push him up down a round or two.

Ahmad Dixon, S

The four-year letterman from Waco enters the draft fresh off of being named an All-American by multiple publications after his performance during his senior season. Dixon is rated as the fourth-best safety in the class, but is pro-

jected as a fourth round pick by CBS Sports and NFL Draft Scout. Dixon needs to try and win teams over during the interview process with his character. Throughout the season, he earned a reputation as a hothead, including getting suspended from the first half of the Texas game after a targeting penalty. The physical skills are there for Dixon, but he still must prove that he can be a leader of an NFL defense.

Jordan Najvar, TE

After originally signing on to play at Stanford, Najvar transferred to Baylor before ever playing a game. The third-year starter was twice named All-Big 12. Najvar, a projected seventh round pick, will have an opportunity to show off his hands and strength at the combine.

Baylor's system uses the tight end as a blocker rather than a receiver, but the NFL is moving in the direction of receiving tight ends. For Najvar to find a spot in the league, he will have to exemplify a strong catching ability during the receiving drills.

Tevin Reese, WR

The former Rivals two-star wide receiver broke onto the scene as a key cog of Baylor's offense. Before dislocating his wrist, Reese averaged 25.0 yards per catch and scored eight touchdowns in only eight games for Baylor. Both CBS Sports and NFL Draft Scout have Reese as a seventh round pick, but he will have an opportunity to turn heads. Reese is one of the fastest players in college football, and the combine will be a place for him to prove it. To move up draft boards, Reese will need to post an impressive 40-yard dash time.

Demetri Goodson, DB

Perhaps no player needs the NFL Draft Combine more than Goodson. He comes in as a former basketball player who only played football fully during his senior year. Goodson has all sorts of athletic ability, and he will need to show it all off for him to even get a look. He played well as a cover-corner at Baylor, but he still must demonstrate improvement during his position drills at the combine.



TRAVIS TAYLOR | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Junior running back Lache Seastrunk rushes the ball on Sept. 7 in Baylor's 70-13 win over Buffalo at Floyd Casey Stadium. Seastrunk decided to forego his senior season to enter the 2014 NFL Draft.

Schedule helped young Lady Bears

By JEFFREY SWINDOLL
SPORTS WRITER

With only four games left before the Big 12 Tournament in Oklahoma City, it is safe to say that the Lady Bears' unorthodox schedule has played into the strengths and weaknesses of Baylor head coach Kim Mulkey's young team.

Mulkey said she did not have a complete idea of how her team would be able to do this season, nor did she have set opinion on the way she felt about the schedule worked out.

Before the season began, the majority of the players had never seen the other teams in the Big 12 yet.

The Lady Bears played very different teams every week, with no real pattern to when they would play.

The amount of different competition and game-planning for each team could have been overwhelming for both Mulkey and her players.

This season though, almost every matchup against a Big 12 team, was followed up by another game

against that same team within a week. Texas, Oklahoma State, Texas Tech and Kansas were each huge games for Baylor, both home and away.

Remembering the strategy and tactics to beat those teams were fresh in the minds of the coaching staff and the players.

It was less to take in at one time. This helped Baylor win and grow familiar with the players around the conference and recognize their tendencies.

The schedule has allowed players such as freshman forward Nina Davis to really grow, even in her first season.

"I feel myself getting more confident each game," Davis said.

Now Davis knows who she matches up against and has only two road games left in the season. The schedule has facilitated the first season for many of the Lady Bears in a more manageable way. It has helped players blossom and grow in their first year of college basketball.

"They're a lot better than they were four months ago," senior guard Odyssey Sims said. "They

steadily impress me every day, every game."

Former Lady Bear Brittney Griner brought a lot of national attention to the women's basketball program at Baylor.

A lot of people wondered how the Lady Bears would do without their All-American player in the post anymore.

National scrutiny was a big possibility for this very young team, but the Lady Bears started this season very low-key. Most of the games were at home, and few were even on television.

This was no mistake from Mulkey. She wanted to give her players an opportunity to get comfortable with each other and their home court. The schedule was a strategic way of helping the team grow.

"I think that we have protected the youth on this team by the schedule that we put in place," Mulkey said.

Knowing her team had not really played in any big games yet, the early season served as a build up to two of the Lady Bears' toughest games this season — Kentucky

and Connecticut, two talented teams that got the best of the Lady Bears.

"When you play the best, it gives you a gauge of how good you are, and maybe gives you a goal that you might not have had because you just didn't know how good we could be," Mulkey said.

After playing Connecticut and losing 66-55 on Jan 13, there was nothing but Big 12 play remaining for the Lady Bears.

Mulkey affirms that Connecticut absolutely is the best team in the country. That has made the Lady Bears' Big 12 matchups seem easier.

They quietly started out, but after going through some tough tests against good teams, including a triple-overtime defeat against Kentucky and a hard fought game against top-ranked Connecticut, the Lady Bears can look back and appreciate the way the schedule has helped them grow as individuals and as a team.

The Lady Bears will next take the court at 11 a.m. Saturday against TCU in Fort Worth. The Horned Frogs are 15-11 overall.



CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior guard Odyssey Sims dribbles the ball along the sideline during the Lady Bears' Feb. 9 win over Oklahoma State.

Ten-second rule would change college football games

By SHEHAN JEYARAJAH
SPORTS WRITER

College football fans are divided on a proposed rule amendment by the NCAA Football Rules Committee that could slow down the no-huddle offense.

The proposed rule change, spearheaded by Alabama coach Nick Saban and Arkansas coach Bret Bielema, would make it a penalty to snap the ball until 29 seconds remain on the 40-second play clock. If the ball is snapped before 29 seconds, a delay-of-game pen-

alty will be assessed. This rule was proposed under the theory that lessening the number of plays in a game could lessen the injury risk of the game.

Fans and coaches of schools that run hurry-up offenses are not buying it.

"I would have to see some scientific or statistical information showing an increase in injuries," Texas Tech coach Kliff Kingsbury said. "To me right now, it's just talk."

ESPN's college football reporter Joe Schad tweeted that coaches

with hurry-up offenses feel as though they should be rewarded for having players that are in shape rather than allowing others to substitute.

The direct allure of a hurry-up college football offense is to try and move down the field as efficiently as possible, but forcing the offense to allow defenses to substitute takes away from the power of the offensive strategy.

In a football game, an offense can put pressure on the defense by forcing them to stay in motion and adjust on the fly to the quickly

changing schemes. Even if they do not snap within 10 seconds, simply the threat of the snap can dictate how defenses line up and substitute, leading to fatigued defenders and opportunities for offense.

Coaches have a simple philosophy to dealing with hurry-up offenses: don't legislate, just coach better.

"If it's only a small percentage of teams that it would affect, then why do it?" Baylor head coach Art Briles said. "If the large percentage are good with the way of things are then leave them alone."

Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy was upset with the proposed change. He took to Twitter to express his displeasure, saying that college football's popularity shouldn't be messed with.

Baylor would be one of the teams most affected by the rule, after running the fifth-most plays per game in FBS football this season.

"People don't want to come sit in the stands and watch the clock move," Briles said. "If they're going to change anything in my mind, change it to a 35-second clock."

Saban and Bielema coach two

of the slowest offenses in football. Alabama has lost two regular season games over the past two years, one to Texas A&M and one to Auburn. The Aggies and Tigers both run hurry-up systems.

"It's clear manipulation, through self-interest, by people who don't want to coach within the parameters where strategy and ingenuity have taken the game," Washington State coach Mike Leach said. "So now they want to manipulate the rules, and in needing an excuse to do this, they try to hide behind player safety. It's ridiculous."

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Seale's selflessness aids track

By MEGAN GRINDSTAFF
REPORTER

At Wylie High School, Abilene senior Drew Seale was a self-proclaimed "basketball player who ran track." The dream of following in the footsteps of a long line of Baylor Bears in his family led him to talk to head coach Todd Harbour about walking onto the track team as an 800-meter runner.

"They didn't think I would do anything, which is fine," Seale said. "If I saw a walk-on come on, I'd probably think the same thing."

As a freshman, Seale stumbled into running with the 400-meter runners in the off-season out of fear of the half-miler workouts.

"I was so scared to run the 800

comes to practice every day with a purpose, Harbour said.

"He's extremely dedicated and extremely intense."

Seale is not going to let anyone beat him at anything, whether it's practice, a meet, video games or sand volleyball, Seale's former roommate and Baylor track alum Phil Raaf said. Whether he is the most gifted competitor or not, Seale welcomes a challenge.

"He never backs down," Harbour said. "Even when he doesn't have the physical tools."

Over the next two years, Seale earned two more All-American honors, four more All-Big 12 honors, and a Big 12 Championship. And for all of his hard work, dedication, and productivity, Baylor

"What other sport could you be an All-American?" said Harbour, "and not be on a full scholarship."

Despite his disappointment, Seale took it all in stride. First and foremost, he thanked God for blessing his family with the ability to afford Baylor without a track scholarship.

"I always felt like if I needed the money, I could have gone and talked to him, and I think they would have pulled somebody off that wasn't doing well and I could have been on a full ride," Seale said.

Understanding the frustration his coach felt in trying to make scholarship decisions with so little money for so many deserving athletes, Seale took the pressure off of Harbour's shoulders.

"I told him if they needed a scholarship, if someone was out there that was really good and it was coming down to me or him getting the scholarship, I said give it to someone else, because my family is blessed enough to afford here," Seale said.

For his fifth and final year at Baylor, Seale was given the option of receiving fifth-year aid.

After an athlete's eligibility is exhausted, coaches can give a former athlete fifth-year aid in order to help them finish out their degree.

This money doesn't count against the team's scholarships. Seale refused to give up his eligibility for the 2013 season and was ineligible for fifth year aid.

"He could have been on a full this last year," Harbour said. "But that season was more important than that to Drew."

Seale only has remaining eligibility for the outdoor season, so he is continuing to train as his teammates compete at indoor meets.

Hart said Seale is using his unusually long off-season to get more mileage in that ever before.

As a result of his extra preparation, his coaches say Seale will be fresher and better prepared than ever in June when post-season competition starts.

After graduation, Seale plans to use his accounting information systems degree to begin working for his family's insurance company.

His leadership on the track team will be missed. Seale's ability to hold his teammates accountable during workouts and recovery alike will be hard to replace, Raaf said.

"You hope all of your athletes can be Drew Seales," said Harbour. "He is the epitome of what a Baylor student-athlete should be: a great student, a great person, a man of faith."

No matter the result of the 2013 outdoor season, it is certain that Drew Seale will leave behind a legacy at Baylor that reaches far beyond what a stopwatch can time.

"Drew is an example to other kids that if you work hard, it doesn't matter whether you come here on a scholarship or not," Hart said. "There is going to be a spot for you."



PHOTO COURTESY OF BAYLOR ATHLETICS

Senior middle distance runner Drew Seale powers through a race. Seale is an All-American in the indoor and outdoor 4x400-meter relay team.

that I got good at the 400," Seale said.

Less than a year later, Seale was a two-time All-American and two-time All-Big 12 4x400m runner.

When asked about his improvement in such a short period of time—Seale chopped two seconds off of his 400 time in his first semester at Baylor—he credits his event coach, Clyde Hart.

"It's a tribute to Coach Hart," Seale said.

Those who know Seale attribute his rapid improvement and success to his quality of character. He

track rewarded him with books. No glamorous scholarship, just books.

Harbour said Seale deserved a full ride scholarship. Unfortunately, with his NCAA allotted scholarships already distributed across a 40-man roster, Harbour had no more financial aid to offer.

Men's track is in the unique situation of having nearly twice as many starters as the program has scholarships to offer. With 21 events and only 12 full scholarships, many starters go without financial aid.

Olympic gold ties with A&T

By CAROLINE LINDSTROM
REPORTER

Shayla Kelley's gymnastic meets always ended differently than other children's.

"My mom had to leave my meets before awards because people would swarm to get her autograph or take pictures with her," said Kelley, a freshman acrobatics and tumbling team member.

Shayla's mother is Olympic gold medalist Mary Lou Retton.

Retton won the all-around gold medal in gymnastics, along with two silver and two bronze medals, in the 1984 Olympic Games.

Although Retton clearly has a passion for gymnastics, she did not force Kelley to be in classes when she was younger.

Kelley played soccer and softball and ran track before discovering she had a love for gymnastics too.



CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

The A&T team practices on Feb. 11 at Marrs McLean Gym.

"My dad actually suggested I get into gymnastic classes so I could build my upper body strength for softball," Kelley said.

At 9 years old, Kelley began gymnastics, which she remained in for nine more years.

Retton never coached her besides giving pointers when Kelley asked.

Her favorite part of gymnastics is that it's a self-motivating sport.

She likes the independent nature of a gymnastic meet because she is a competitive person.

Kelley's junior and senior year of high school, she worked hard to make it to the level her mom did in the gymnastic world.

"Genetics don't get you to the Olympics," Kelley said. "Hard work and dedication does and the Olympics just weren't on my path."

Her path differed from her mother's and led her to the acrobatics and tumbling team at Baylor.

Kelley was excited about the Christian atmosphere at Baylor because it was similar to her high school in Houston.

Once she arrived at Baylor, Kelley immediately became close with her whole team.

"Shayla has an excellent work ethic and goes above and beyond for this team. She has a drive to be a winner," said head coach LaPrise Harris-Williams, head coach.

Kelley said the hardest thing about joining the acrobatics and tumbling team is adjusting to the team aspect of the sport.

The acro team isn't just one competitor against a balance beam or the uneven bars.

This is a team of 46 women who work hard to pull off elaborate stunts. However, she finds it "uplifting and motivating" to have close bonds with all the girls on the team.

"Shayla is a hard worker that pushes everyone around her. She wants the best for the team and



Shayla Kelley

achieve our goals," said Tori Jackson, senior acrobatics and tumbling member.

As for Retton, she trusts Coach Harris-Williams to do her job and prepare the team for meets.

In fact, Harris-Williams says other parents are more involved than Retton is.

She has let Kelley run her own course through gymnastics and not pressure her through decisions but support her through whatever she does.

"Shayla's parents worked hard to raise their children normally, even though her mom is a well known person in our sport," Harris-Williams said.

Kelley rarely thinks of her mother as "Mary Lou Retton," who even has a flip named after her on the uneven bars. She's not even sure where her mother's medals are stored.

However, perks such as attending the Golden Globes come around every now and then. Kelley said she appreciates having a mother who lets her follow her own dreams.

"Overall she's just the gold medal mom," said Kelley.

Acrobatics and tumbling's next home event is at 6:30 p.m. March 29 against Oregon.

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Gathers epitomizes grit on the court for Bears

By SHEHAN JEYARAJAH
SPORTS WRITER

When Rico Gathers steps on a basketball court, everyone takes notice. Even on the biggest stage of college basketball, the sophomore is physically a man-among-boys at 6-foot-8 and 270 pounds.

"Every football coach in the area wanted me to come and play football for them back in high school," Gathers said. "It was actually a big controversy in my area. When I chose a school that didn't have football at all, people were like dang, what are you going to do if things don't work out?"

Things seem to be working out pretty well these days for the Louisiana native. Gathers joined Baylor as the second highest recruit in a top five-rated class in 2012, and immediately was part of a Baylor team that overcame a slow start to win the National Invitational Tournament in 2013.

The native of La-Place, La., led his Riverside High School team to a state championship as a sophomore, while averaging 19.8 points, 11.5 rebounds and 4.5 blocks per game on the way to being named Most Outstanding Player.

Gathers was named Gatorade Louisiana High School Player of the Year and the Louisiana Sports Writers named him Mr. Louisiana during both his junior and senior years of high school. His final year, he averaged 22.0 points, 17.0 rebounds, 4.1 blocks, 2.1 assists and

1.1 steals per game while leading his team to another Louisiana state title.

Coming out of high school, Gathers had offers from Duke, Florida, USC and LSU, among others. In August of 2011, Gathers committed to play basketball for Steve Lavin at St. John's University in New York City.

During the 2012 season, however, Lavin was forced to spend time away from the bench to receive treatment for prostate cancer. The Big East Conference was also beginning to go through realignment, which led to a sense of uncertainty about St. John's status heading forward.

"With him going to New York, he wants to be 100 percent sure," Gathers' brother Greg said to ESPN at the time.

"Back in August [when he committed], that was before the Big East situation and Lavin's health. You want to be 100 percent sure with leaving Louisiana and going to New York."

One day before fall signing day, Gathers rescinded his commitment. And in came Baylor.

The Bears had been on Gathers' radar since he was in middle school, including in eighth grade when he attended Baylor's camp.

"Yeah, he was already a man-child back then," sophomore center Isaiah Austin said. "Me and Rico actually said we were going to come to Baylor together in eighth grade here at the Baylor camp."

Austin exploded into a top five national prospect in the Dallas

area. Austin and Gathers maintained their connection throughout the recruiting process.

"We always had that expecta-

"When I see myself in the mirror, I just envision myself on the court. At the end of the day, I know what I really love to do and that's play basketball."

Rico Gathers | forward

tion of playing with each other," Gathers said. "He actually tried to get me to play with his AAU team, the Compton Magic. It never did happen. But then I saw he had committed to Baylor, and I had just decommitted from St. John's, I was like man, we can finally make that happen."

Around the same time Gathers started getting national attention, former Baylor All-American Tweety Carter was making his presence known at Baylor. Carter was a point guard who played under Gathers' high-school coach Tim Byrd.

"Tweety played a major factor," Gathers said. "He was from the same area as I was and played for the same coach. That kind of played a factor in me coming out here for the first time."

When scouting, Baylor's staff looks for players who can thrive in their system and on Baylor's campus. They knew they had a stud in Gathers.

"Gathers went to Riverside, which was a small Christian school," longtime Baylor assistant coach Jerome Tang said. "To some extent, Baylor is a bigger version of Riverside, so we knew he could thrive here."

Tang emphasized the effect the relationships Baylor had with Carter and Byrd on bringing Gathers to Baylor.

"Having the connection between Tweety and Rico was unbelievable," Tang said. "It was probably the key factor. We also had a great relationship with Coach Byrd. His being a devout Christian helped our relationship with him."

Gathers came on his official visit in January, and committed to play at Baylor on Jan. 27, 2012.

He officially signed his National Letter of Intent in the spring cycle.

"At first the thought of being in Waco, Texas, ain't nothing to do out here," Gathers said. "But then I realized none of that really matters. All of this is about me trying to somewhere where I could play and get better. I look at it like I have everything I need right here."

Since being at Baylor, Gathers has become a fan favorite for his sheer effort. The sophomore has come off the bench providing rebounds, energy and thunderous dunks. Whenever Baylor plays on national television, which has been often since his arrival, it seems as though every announcer points out how great of a football player Gathers could be. But that does not faze Gathers.

"When I see myself in the mirror, I just envision myself on the court," Gathers said. "At the end of the day, I know what I really love to do, and that's play basketball."



CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore forward Rico Gathers battles Kansas for a rebound on Feb. 4 at the Ferrell Center. Gathers is a fan favorite because of his toughness.

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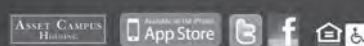


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