



KEVIN FREEMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior cornerback Chris Sanders runs out of the tunnel before Baylor's 61-58 win over TCU on Oct. 11. The Bears face off against their second top 10 opponent on Saturday at McLane Stadium.

Finish Strong

Baylor can capture second-straight Big 12 Championship against KSU

By JEFFREY SWINDOLL
SPORTS WRITER

No. 6 Baylor football was thrown into a whirlwind after Tuesday night's announcement of the latest College Football Playoff rankings. With just one game left in the regular season, the odds are stacked against the Bears to make it into the new four-team playoff system this year. Regardless of any other result, the Bears must win to be in the College Football Playoff.

On top of Baylor's shot at playing for a national title, the Bears have the opportunity to win their second-ever Big 12 title. All of this will take place on national television with the famed College GameDay show preceding the 6:45 p.m. kickoff to be broadcast on ESPN.

All eyes will be on Waco for the season finale, which will essentially decide the Big 12 Conference title and prove the Bears' worth to the selection committee in possibly the biggest game in Baylor history. Quite the mouthwatering fixture.

None of it will come easy though. The Bears play the notoriously disciplined No. 9 Kansas State Wildcats (9-2) tomorrow night at McLane Stadium. The Wildcats' only losses this season were against No. 19 Auburn (8-4) and No. 3 TCU (10-1).

"[Kansas State] has done an outstanding job for decades and does it in a unique way," Baylor head coach Art Briles said. "They believe in what they do and they have tremendous support from the Wildcat community that is almost unparalleled, if you have ever been up to Manhattan. I certainly think they are a program and he is a coach that if you are looking for a flaw or dent in the armor, you are not going to find one."

Baylor offense vs. Kansas State defense

Baylor leads the country in total offense (581.1 yards per game) and scor-

ing offense (49.8 points per game). With the amount of talent and sheer numbers, Baylor arguably has the best offense in the country. The Bears rank No. 1 nationally in first downs per game (30.2), and have three of top individual offensive players in the Big 12 -- senior quarterback Bryce Petty, sophomore running back Shock Linwood, sophomore wide receiver Corey Coleman.

"Our running game has been going well, so we have to be able to hit some short routes as well," Coleman said. "Once we hit those, the defense won't play 30 yards back like they have been playing. After we hit those short routes and they come up, we can get them long."

Overall, Baylor's attack is balanced with both running and passing. Baylor is third in the nation by averaging 3.5 rushing touchdowns per game and is one of just two teams in the FBS, along with Oregon, that has 30 passing touchdowns and 30 rushing touchdowns. Kansas State's defense is no easy task, though.

"They are about as sound of a defense as you could ever find," Petty said. "They don't make mistakes or very rarely do."

The Bears have the 20th best running game in the country on the back of Linwood's 1,135 yards this season. The running corps took a blow, though, after sophomore running back Devin Chafin suffered a dislocated elbow against Texas Tech last week. Chafin has been the Bears' best short-yardage, hard-nosed running back this season, Briles said.

Baylor defense vs. Kansas State offense

In terms of offensive production, the similarities between Baylor and K-State are striking. Quarterback Jake Waters has had an outstanding season with 18 touchdowns, 2863 total yards, and just five interceptions in 11 games f, all of which are almost identical to Petty's numbers. The only major difference is in touchdowns, Petty has 25 compared to Waters' 18.



ORLIN WAGNER | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kansas State kick returner Tyler Lockett (16) escapes a tackle by Kansas special teams player Justin McCay (19) during the second half of an NCAA college football game in Manhattan, Kan., Nov. 29. Kansas State won 51-13.

The similarities don't stop at the quarterback position. They spill over into receiving as well. The Wildcats have two top-notch receivers, Tyler Lockett and Curry Sexton, leading the team in receiving. Baylor freshman receiver KD Cannon and Coleman combine for, again, nearly identical numbers in yards per game. Lockett and Sexton average 14.55 yards per reception and are responsible for 2,133 receiving yards this season. Lockett and Sexton are threats that have the ability to break the Bears' secondary on Saturday night.

"[Lockett] is a very dangerous player, and Waters does a great job," Briles said. "Their scheme makes you cover the field interior and exterior. They do a great job of making you cover all of the eligible receivers with run-pass options. They have some guys they can go to and Waters to me has had a phenomenal year."

One thing the Bears specifically had going for them last week, and the whole season, was forced turnovers. Baylor has forced at least one turnover in all 11 games of 2014, with three or more in four of the last seven.

After allowing the Texas Tech Red Raiders' freshman quarterback Patrick Mahomes 598 passing yards in the Bears' narrow 48-46 victory at AT&T Stadium on Saturday, Baylor's defense is on red alert. The Bears' pass defense ranks 100th in the nation. Against Waters and his receiving duo, the Bears' secondary will have its hands full.

"Everything is motivating at this point," senior nickelback Collin Brence said. "Our team put itself in a position to win another Big 12 Championship. That is big in itself. Then you add in the situation with the playoffs, and it makes this week pretty big. I was sitting on the couch yesterday, and I looked on Twitter to see that College GameDay is coming. That doesn't happen every week. There's a lot on the line, and it's up to us not to let that be bigger than the game itself. We have to go out there and act like it is another Saturday. It's a great day to play football and play against a great opponent."

The game will be preceded by ESPN's College GameDay from 8 to 11 a.m. in front of the South Endzone of McLane.

Big 12 Roundup

By Cody Soto
SPORTS WRITER

Iowa State (2-9, 0-8) at No. 3 TCU (10-1, 7-1)
Iowa State finishes Big 12 play as it plays No. 3 TCU at Amon G. Carter Stadium on Saturday morning

The Cyclones look to avoid a winless conference season as they face bowl-bound TCU. Iowa State has not won since its 37-30 win over Toledo on Oct. 11. Most recently, the Cyclones dropped a 37-24 decision to West Virginia last Saturday. Quarterback Sam B. Richardson threw for 275 yards and two touchdowns in the team's fifth-straight loss. The Cyclones rallied for 410 offensive yards on 22 first downs in Ames, Iowa.

TCU has the chance to win a share its first Big 12 title Saturday morning as the team hosts its final regular season game. The Horned Frogs smashed Texas 48-10 on Thanksgiving and limited the Longhorns to only 290 offensive yards in the matchup. Quarterback Trevone Boykin was 20-for-34 on the night for 233 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. The Horned Frogs went up 20-3 heading into halftime, and an interception return by defensive end Josh Carraway put the Horned Frogs up by 38 with under three minutes left in the game.

TCU is currently in the Top 4 of the College Football Playoff bracket, but the final pairings will be announced on Sunday at 12:30 p.m.

TCU and Iowa State kick off at 11 a.m. on ABC.

Oklahoma State (5-6, 3-5) at No. 20 Oklahoma (8-3, 5-3)

The annual Bedlam series kicks off Saturday afternoon as Oklahoma State and No. 20 Oklahoma face off in each team's season finale at Memorial Stadium in Norman, Okla.

Oklahoma State enters the matchup with a five-game losing streak, including their most recent 49-28 loss against then-No. 7 Baylor in Waco on Nov. 22. In the loss, quarterback Mason Rudolph passed for 281 yards and two touchdowns but was intercepted twice at McLane Stadium. The Cowboys were in the hole with a 42-14 deficit before using its next two drives to cut the lead. Oklahoma State finished with 381 total offensive yards against the Bears.

The Sooners enter their final home game with a 44-7 win over Kansas on Nov. 22. Oklahoma jumped out to a 31-0 start with the help of running back Samaje Perine who finished with 427 yards on 34 carries for five rushing touchdowns in the win. With Trevor Knight still out due to a spine injury, quarterback Cody Thomas only passed the ball for 39 yards on three receptions for the Sooners. Oklahoma has won the Bedlam series 11 times in 12 years, including a 33-24 win over then-No. 6 Oklahoma State last season.

Oklahoma and Oklahoma State face off in Norman at 2:30 p.m. on FOX Sports 1.

Baylor men's basketball sneaks past Vanderbilt 66-63 on road

By CODY SOTO
SPORTS WRITER

Baylor men's basketball used a strong performance from senior forward Royce O'Neale and junior forward Taurean Prince to take a 66-63 win over Vanderbilt Thursday night at Memorial Gym in Nashville, Tenn.

This is the first win since 1949 for the Bears against the Commodores, and Baylor snaps an eight-game losing streak to Vanderbilt. The Bears are now 5-1 in conference challenges, marking a perfect 2-0 record in the Big 12/SEC Challenge.

The Bears finished with a 45.3 shooting effort and were 55.6 percent from the three-point line in a very tight game at Memorial Gym.

O'Neale and Prince combined for 41 points and collected 22 and 19 points individually.

Prince also had five rebounds, four assists and a block for the Bears. Junior guard Lester Medford had seven points and added six rebounds, seven assists, and three steals to keep the Bears in front.

Junior forward Rico Gathers only had four points after posting a career-high 23 points in Baylor's win over Texas Southern Monday night. Gathers contributed six rebounds on defense.

Freshman guard Al Freeman saw quite a bit of playing time and had seven points and added two three-pointers in the win. Sophomore forward Ishmail Wainwright added four rebounds for Baylor.

A layup by Prince broke a 12-12 tie halfway through the first half, and the Bears cruised on a 8-0 run capped off by junior guard Austin Mills' three-pointer to lead 20-12 with 9:09 left in the opening half.

A three-pointer by Vanderbilt's Wade Baldwin cut the lead to five, but O'Neale secured the jump shot to make it a seven-point lead for Baylor. Prince was red hot from beyond the arc and knocked down a buzzer beater, and Baylor went into the locker room with a 34-25 lead.

The Bears came out flat and allowed a 6-0 run to start out the second half. Freeman and O'Neale each hit a three-pointer to extend the lead to nine, and O'Neale went ahead and added another three-pointer.

The game got close in the final minutes, and Vanderbilt's Damian Jones sunk two free throws to cut the lead to 65-63. Baldwin fouled Medford with 14 seconds to go, and Medford sunk a free throw to push the lead to three. Vanderbilt failed at an attempted last second three-pointer, and the Bears took the 66-63 win over the Commodores.



Junior forward Deng Deng shoots over a Vanderbilt defender during Baylor's 66-63 win over the Commodores on Thursday.

Baylor women taking advantage of non-conference play

By JEFFREY SWINDOLL
SPORTS WRITER

Baylor head coach Kim Mulkey has treated the beginning portion of her season as trial run for most of her players. Veterans like sophomore forward Nina Davis, junior guard Niya Johnson, junior post Kristina Higgins, senior guard Alexis Prince and senior post Sune Agbuke are all mainstays in Mulkey's main rotation. But, for the new players this season, Mulkey has said she is not quite sure how she plans to use each one of them.

The season keeps moving though, even for the No. 11 Lady Bears who are searching for an identity at the moment. Their next challenge, and second road game of the season, tips off at 2 p.m. on Sunday against Ole Miss in Oxford, Miss. While the students in Waco are taking in the College Gameday experience, the Lady Bears will have nothing but business in mind. There is no time to play around because

of the limited amount of games in the pre-conference season.

"I looked at the schedule a minute ago after lunch, and I was like, Gosh, seven games is what we have this month," Mulkey said. "I want more. Does that make sense? I feel like I need more. I need more game time, I need more practice time, because we just need it, but we are limited on how many we can play prior to conference starting. And then we take the Christmas break."

Davis, without a doubt, the front-runner for the team's MVP this season, has played multiple roles for Mulkey this season, as opposed to last season, where her role stayed relatively consistent throughout the latter portion of the season.

This season, Davis is up to the high standard she set for herself last season as Big 12 Newcomer of the Year. She is the team's leading scorer and is nuisance for defenses, night-in-night-out. Against UT-

Pan American Wednesday night, Davis scored 31 points, just one point shy of her career record.

"She's been starting at the three for us until we can get Kristy back and I can get a rotation like I have it," Mulkey said. "So, [against UTPA] she was more at the four than she was at the three and she was back in her comfort zone."

Mulkey is putting more responsibility on Davis' shoulders, especially now with one of Baylor's starting guards, freshman Kristy Wallace, out of the lineup for one more game. Wallace is on national team duty with Australia's under 19 women's national basketball team to train for the 2015 FIBA Under 19 World Championship.

"As far as the three goes, if my team needs there, I'll do anything to help the team," Davis said. "It's different out there, but whatever the team needs, I'm willing to do."

Johnson, who Mulkey calls the Lady

Bears' "quarterback," returned to play for Baylor on Wednesday night after a one game absence, nursing an injury. Mulkey said the way her team plays without Johnson on the floor is clearly different from the way they flow with her on the court. Johnson being out forces Mulkey to play some of her players out of position, which presents a problem in itself. Notably, sophomore forward Ieshia Small has had to play more point guard while Wallace is with her Australian team and Johnson is off the court for whatever reason.

"When you don't have your quarterback, everybody's got to do a little bit more, and you're probably not comfortable playing out of position," Ieshia is truly a wing player, but she can handle the ball, and I thought she and Imani both did good when I didn't have Niya. But when you've got your point guard and your quarterback back out on the floor, there's a comfort level there."

With Johnson on the court, Baylor's offense is as clean with the ball as anyone. Against UTPA, Johnson dished out 10 assists without committing a single turnover. Johnson had to overcome being one game removed from the Lady Bears, as well as her injury pain which caused her to be out in the first place.

"I was just trying to get my groove back [against UTPA] from the game I missed," Johnson said. "I just can't worry about the injury. I just have to go out there and play. If I worry about the injury I'm not going to be able to go out there and play."

Ole Miss (6-2) are coming off of a 98-69 spanking given to them by Western Kentucky on Thursday night. The Lady Rebels will be licking their wounds against the Lady Bears on Sunday. Ole Miss is led by Klara Golden and Shequila Joseph who were the only two to score in double digits against Western Kentucky.

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Fall 2014 in Review:

Baylor equestrian reached the top of the national rankings, while soccer and volleyball showed potential for next year



KEVIN FREEMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Equestrian ranked top in the country

A Baylor equestrian western rider competes during Baylor's 14-1 win over Southern Methodist on Sept. 27. The Bears currently sit ranked, undefeated and No. 1 overall in the NCEA rankings after a series of impressive wins, including a 13-7 win over former No. 1 Georgia at home. Senior Samantha Schaefer was named NCEA National Rider of the Month for November.



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore middle hitter Tola Itiola leaps for a spike against Baylor's 1-3 loss to Texas on Nov. 19 in Waco. The Bears finished with a disappointing 14-17 record, including 4-12 in conference. After the year, it was announced head coach Jim Barnes will not return next season.



SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior midfielder Alexa Wilde jumps up for a head during Baylor's 1-1 draw over TCU on Oct. 3. The Bears got off to a hot start, including an impressive win over No. 23 BYU on the road. However, Baylor struggled when it reached conference play, finishing with a 2-5-1 record in conference. The Bears upset No. 2 Oklahoma State in the Big 12 tourney, but lost in penalty kicks to OU to end the season.



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Playoff scenarios yet to be finalized

By RALPH RUSSO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 12-member College Football Playoff selection committee will gather Saturday in Texas to watch the final weekend of the season play out and then rank the top 25 teams in the country. The top four will compete for the national championship in the sport's first ever playoff.

How difficult the committee's job will be depends on the outcome of about a half dozen games to be played Friday and Saturday.

"At that point, we will have had a season long body of work to evaluate, in addition to knowing who the conference champions are," committee chairman Jeff Long said.

The top four heading into the weekend are in order: Alabama, Oregon, TCU and Florida State. If they all take care of business, there is a good chance that will be the top four on Sunday, too. Probably. Maybe?

But what happens if things don't go as expected? Let's dive into the possibilities.

What happens if ...

Missouri beats Alabama?

The unthinkable — at least for many down South. There is a very real possibility the Southeastern Conference would be left out of the playoff. Missouri is ranked 16th in the latest playoff rankings. That's a long way to go to get in the four-team field. The committee clearly is not loving Missouri's ugly losses (at home against Indiana and 34-0 to Georgia), so it's doubtful it will forgive Alabama for losing to the Tigers and allow the Crimson Tide to back into the field. If the Tigers pull an upset, the SEC is going to need a lot of help. The Crimson Tide is favored by 14.5.

Arizona beats Oregon?

The Wildcats are seventh in the rankings, heading into a rematch with Oregon Friday.



ASHLEY LANDIS | ASSOCIATED PRESS

TCU quarterback Trevone Boykin (2) throws a pass during the first half of an NCAA college football game against Texas, on Nov. 27, in Austin. TCU was elevated to the number three team in the nation in the most recent College Football Playoff poll.

Two wins away from home against the Ducks would be like holding a pair of aces: tough to beat. It could come down to a resume contest between Baylor and/or Ohio State and Arizona. Don't bet against the Wildcats making the big jump. The Pac-12 and commissioner Larry Scott are touting their championship as a playoff play-in game. They might be right. Despite losing the first game, Oregon is favored by 14.5.

Georgia Tech beats Florida State?

Considering the fourth-place and unbeaten Seminoles have been dropping when they win, there's no doubt they'd be done with a loss. Georgia Tech is 11th and beating Florida State would mean finishing the season with three straight wins against ranked teams. The Yellow Jackets would probably need Baylor (vs. Kansas State) and Ohio State (vs. Wisconsin) to lose to reach the top four, but considering who those teams are playing, that doesn't seem so like such a stretch. Florida State is favored by 4.

TCU struggles to beat Iowa State?

The Horned Frogs got a pass for squeaking by at Kansas last month. That can't happen again against a 30-point underdog at home. If it does, it would open the door for either Baylor or Ohio State to replace the Frogs in the top four. With the Bears and Buckeyes in position to add marquee wins to their resumes, the third-ranked Horned Frogs better exert some

serious game control against the Cyclones.

Three of the top four teams lose?

Assuming it won't be TCU, the Big 12 would be looking good to get two teams in the field. TCU, Baylor, Ohio State and Arizona sounds about right in this scenario. If Baylor were to lose to K-State, the ninth-ranked Wildcats could become a viable option, though that scenario probably allows Georgia Tech to squeeze through.

Alabama, Ohio State and Baylor lose?

This is how Missouri could get in. Assuming Arizona and Georgia Tech also lose, the final spot with Florida State, TCU and Oregon comes down to Missouri, Kansas State and Wisconsin. Michigan State (eighth) and Mississippi State (10th) would likely come back into the conversation, but neither would have the conference championship that those other three would have on their resumes. And what team would have a better win than Missouri if it takes down the committee's No. 1 team on a neutral field?

The top six teams all lose?

Long and his crew might have to pull an all-nighter.

The questions with this doomsday scenario are: Could it allow Alabama to back in? Would Mississippi State and/or Michigan State get in? And how bad will the TV ratings be for a final four of Arizona, Georgia Tech, Kansas State and Wisconsin or Missouri?

College Football Playoff frequently asked questions

By RALPH RUSSO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Who is on this committee?

The College Football Playoff selection committee will reveal its final top 25 rankings and set the four-team field for the College Football Playoff on Sunday.

The panel is made up of twelve members: Arkansas athletic director Jeff Long, committee chairman; Southern California athletic director Pat Haden; Clemson athletic director Dan Radakovich; Wisconsin athletic director Barry Alvarez; West Virginia athletic director Oliver Luck; Former Nebraska coach Tom Osborne; Former Stanford, Notre Dame and Washington coach Tyrone Willingham; Former Big East Commissioner Mike Tranghese; Former NCAA vice president Tom Jernstedt; Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; Former USA Today sports writer Steve Wieberg and Former Air Force superintendent and retired Lieutenant General Mike Gould. Former Mississippi quarterback Archie Manning was part of the committee, but recently had to step down because of some health issues. He will not be replaced.

Some frequently asked questions about the committee, the rankings and playoff:

How does the committee rank the teams? Is it like the AP Top 25?

No, the process is nothing like the AP college football poll, where voters submit ballots and the teams are ranked using a points system. The committee will create small groups of teams, debate their merits and rank the teams using as many votes as needed to come up with a consensus. The committee has been ranking teams weekly since late October.

Why top 25? The playoff only has four teams.

The committee will also create the matchups and pick some of the teams to play in the four other bowl games involved in the playoff rotation. Those games are the Cotton Bowl, the Orange Bowl, the Fiesta Bowl and the Peach Bowl. Those teams will be chosen using the highest ranked teams after the playoff matchups have been set and considering the contracts certain conferences have with certain bowls. Also, the committee is responsible for choosing the best team from the so-called Group of Five conferences — the American Athletic Conference, Mountain West, Sun Belt, Conference USA and the Mid-American Conference — which is guaranteed a spot in one of the New Year's bowls, no matter how far down the rankings.

Where will they be meeting?

A resort hotel in Grapevine, Texas, just outside of Dallas.

When will the selections be revealed?

Sunday at 12:45 p.m. ET on ESPN.

What should we expect?

Depends on what happens this weekend. The current top four is Alabama, Oregon, TCU and Florida State. If they all win Saturday, there's a good chance those will be the playoff teams. If the order doesn't change Alabama would play Florida State at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans and Oregon and TCU would play at the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day. If one or more lose, the committee's work gets tougher.

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Ready for Christmas?

The Lariat is. This semester, the Lariat staff is bringing you a guide to the best in Christmas: movies, music, treats and fun. (Lots of fun.) This collection of our Christmas favorites can supplement holiday parties, family gatherings or even a warm night spent by the fireside.

By Rae Jefferson | Arts & Entertainment Editor

Frosty flicks

Christmas themed films are popular in the newsroom. This list covers a wide range of genres to satisfy every moviegoer.

Cheesy

Any films on Hallmark, ABC Family or Lifetime channels

Classic

1. "It's a Wonderful Life"
2. "Miracle on 34th Street"
3. "A Christmas Story"

Musical

1. "White Christmas"
2. "The Muppet Christmas Carol"
3. "The Polar Express"

Comedy

1. "Scrooged"
2. "Home Alone"
3. "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"

Modern

1. "Christmas with the Kranks"
2. "Bad Santa"
3. "Elf"

Animated

1. "A Charlie Brown Christmas"
2. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
3. "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer"

Rom-Com

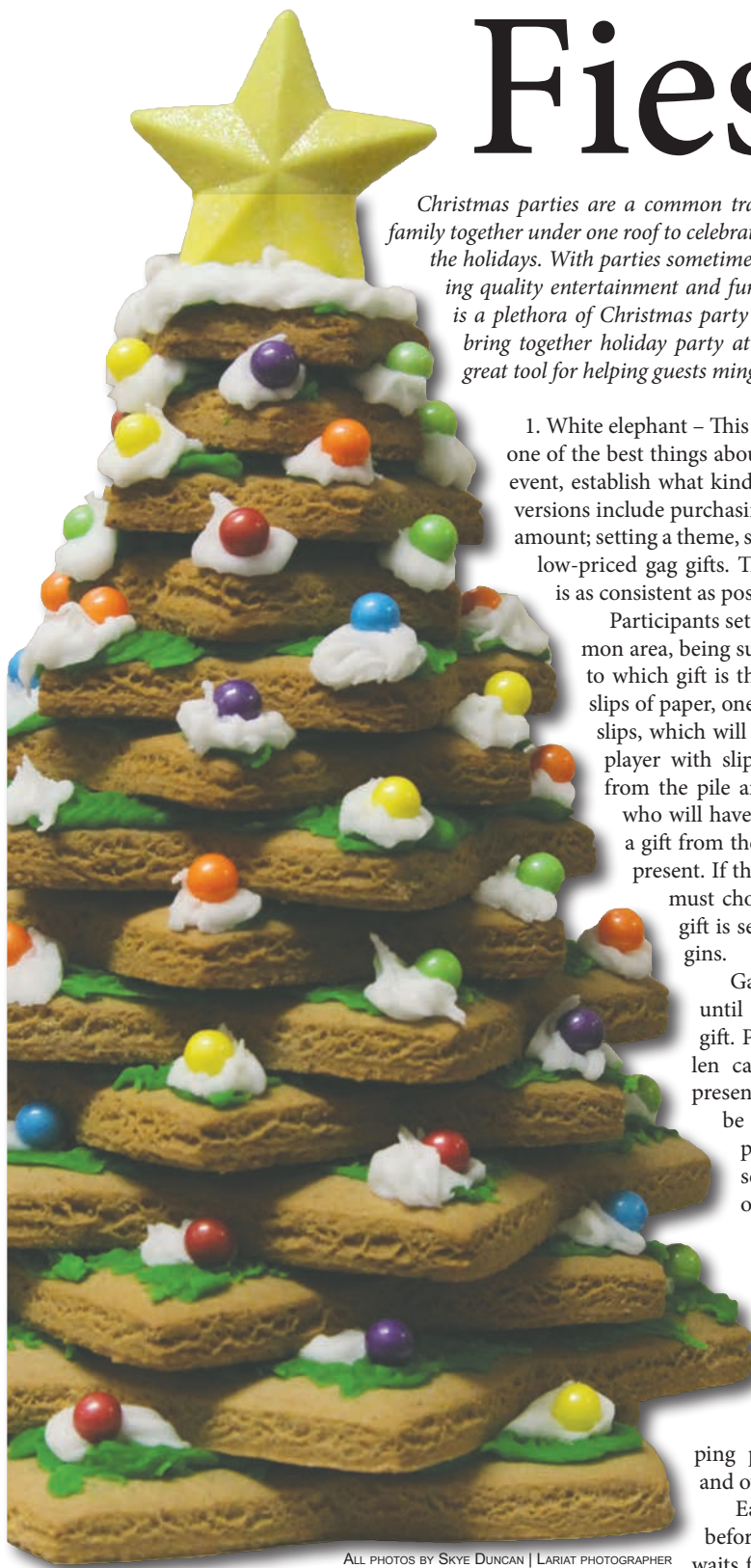
1. "The Holiday"
2. "Love Actually"
3. "While You Were Sleeping"

Scary

1. "The Nightmare Before Christmas"
2. "The Gremlins"
3. "Black Christmas"

Action

1. "Die Hard"



ALL PHOTOS BY SKYE DUNCAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Fiesta favorites

Christmas parties are a common tradition that bring friends and family together under one roof to celebrate the joy of relationship during the holidays. With parties sometimes comes the pressure of providing quality entertainment and fun for guests. Fortunately, there is a plethora of Christmas party games and activities that will bring together holiday party attendees and can be used as a great tool for helping guests mingle with one another.

1. White elephant – This tried and true classic involves one of the best things about Christmas: gifts. Before the event, establish what kinds of gifts will be given. Some versions include purchasing gifts worth a certain dollar amount; setting a theme, such as a color; or contributing low-priced gag gifts. This helps to ensure gift value is as consistent as possible from person to person.

Participants set their wrapped gifts in a common area, being sure to avoid drawing attention to which gift is theirs. Someone then numbers slips of paper, one per player. Participants draw slips, which will determine playing order. The player with slip number one chooses a gift from the pile and opens it. The next player, who will have slip number two, can choose a gift from the pile or steal the first player's present. If the present is stolen, player one must choose a different gift. After the gift is selected, player three's turn begins.

Game play continues like this until the last player has selected a gift. Players who's presents are stolen cannot immediately steal that present back. Each item may only be stolen three times; the fourth person to have it in their possession becomes its permanent owner.

2. Giftwrap relay – Wrapping gifts is often inseparable from Christmas tradition. This game, however, puts a twist on the task. Two to four player are provided with a box, wrapping paper, scissors, tape, bows... and oven mitts.

Each player takes their place before a wrapping station and waits for a two-minute timer to be-

gin. When the clock starts, players must race to wrap the boxes while wearing the oven mitts. The player who produces the most appealing package at the end of the timer wins.

3. Photobooth – Selfies will surely abound at any good Christmas shindig, so why not provide guests with the perfect location to capture the shots? Cheap backdrops can be made using items such as party streamers, fabric, Christmas lights or paper banners, and props are an added bonus. The mustache-on-a-stick never gets old.

4. Cookie/ gingerbread decorating – Cookie decorating can be used as a contest or just a fun activity. The best part is that it can be altered to fit your needs. Attendees can use homemade, pre-made or store-bought cookies, and the icing can be made in-house or come from a can. Many grocery stores sell gingerbread house and tree kits with all the supplies included. There is even an ugly sweater sugar cookie kit available for purchase.

5. Ugly Christmas sweater contest – With the resurgence of vintage clothing came the famous ugly Christmas sweater. It is quickly becoming a staple of the holiday season, with local thrift stores being swept clean of every mothball scented snowman sweater in their possessions. For those who are not fond of purchasing someone's old knits, some stores now sell new holiday sweaters with intentionally obnoxious designs.

The best Christmas sweaters, however, are always homemade, so check out Pinterest for some great ideas for ugly Christmas sweaters.

6. Secret Santa – This is another traditional group present game. Each participant writes their name on a slip of paper and puts it into a container. Some versions of the game even require players to fill out a fact sheet to guide their secret santa while shopping. Each player draws a name and then purchases a gift for the person on their slip of paper. Players bring their gifts to the party without revealing who each santa is. As each person opens their present, they make guesses at who their santa is. At the end, any santas who were unidentified should confess who they purchased a present for.

7. Heads Up – One of the easiest ways to get party guests to interact is to pit them against one another in a cut-throat competition, otherwise known as Heads Up.

The game is a phone application that involves guessing a word or phrase that pops up on the screen. Players take turns holding the phone horizontally above their foreheads with the screen facing the rest of the players. As words pass across the screen, players give the phone-holder clues as to what the screen says. When the guesser has successfully identified the word, the phone is tilted up to move on to the next word. If the word cannot be guessed, the phone must be tilted down to pass the word. The player with the most guesses in the end wins.

Original Nestle Toll House cookies

These cookies have received the Lariat stamp of approval. A breeze to prepare, fun to make and enjoyable to eat, these cookies make for great company on the coldest (or, in Texas, the most tepid) of winter nights.

What you need

- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 sticks butter
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups chocolate or peanut butter chips
- 1 cup chopped nuts (optional)

What you do

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees before you begin.

Prep: 15 minutes
Bake: 9 - 11 minutes

2. Mix flour, baking soda and salt in a small bowl with an electric mixer.
3. Beat butter, sugars and vanilla in a separate, larger bowl until mixture is creamy.
4. Combine eggs, one at a time,

in creamy mixture.

5. Add flour, a little at a time, into mixture.

6. Mix chips into dough. Use chocolate, peanut butter or other kinds of morsels. Mixing chip flavors also works well.

7. Use a tablespoon or hands to place 2 inch balls on an ungreased cookie sheet.

8. Bake for 9 to 11 minutes or until the edges are golden brown. Cool for 2 minutes before removing from cookie sheet.

Recipe is from www.verybest-baking.com/recipes/18476/original-nestle-toll-house-chocolate-chip-cookies.

"A Very Lariat Christmas" playlist

The Lariat staff compiled a list of its most cherished Christmas tunes, which reflect the individual personalities and interests of our members.

1. "Baby It's Cold Outside" – She & Him
2. "White Christmas" – Bing Crosby
3. "Flurries" – August Burns Red
4. "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" – John Lowry
5. "12 Days of Christmas" – Straight No Chaser
6. "Mary Did You Know" – Pentatonix
7. "Jingle Bell Rock" – Bobby Helms
8. "Baby Son" – John Mark McMillan
9. "Do You Hear What I Hear" – Mariah Carey
10. "So This Is Christmas" – John Lennon
11. "Christmas Eve/ Sarajevo" – Trans-Siberian Orchestra
12. "Christmas in Hollis" – RUN-DMC
13. "Donde Esta Santa Claus" – Augie Rios
14. "Christmas Time Is Here – Vocal" – Vince Guaraldi Trio

Visit BaylorLariat.com for links to all of these songs.

A few quick tips...

If you are on a tight schedule or are not looking for a homemade recipe, pre-made cookie dough will get the job done just as well. Nestle's Toll House chocolate chip cookie dough is a great tasting option that stays softer than other brands, even days after baking, if stored in an air-tight container.



Hot cocoa is a great addition to a chocolate chip cookie during Christmas. We recommend Swiss Miss cocoa, and for those without a sweet tooth, pairing the cocoa with sugar cookies or a candy cane can be a nice break from all the chocolate.



Love for literature, life shows bookworm way to dream

By JULIA ECKARDT
REPORTER

As an undergrad at the University of Iowa, Arna Bontemps Hemenway, now an assistant professor in the English department at Baylor, would drive 20 minutes outside of town to the nearest Barnes & Noble just to peruse through the Discovered Author section.

"I would go just to look at the rows of shelves of people who had the Discover Award," Hemenway said. "I was like, 'Someday I'm going to have a book, and it's going to be on there.'"

Hemenway said he was determined early in life to one day be accepted into the best master's in fine arts program - the Iowa Writers Workshop.

After college, rather than jumping right into graduate school, Hemenway moved overseas and worked as a tour guide in Europe and Africa.

While living in Jerusalem, a bus he rode daily was the target of a terrorist attack that killed several people just eight days before he arrived in Jerusalem.

"You don't have it in the front of your mind at all times, but the knowledge that a week ago there were people sitting in the same place that ended up being killed really makes you want to live and experience everything you can," Hemenway said.

After returning to the United States, Hemenway reached a distinct fork in the

road. He could either return to school to study law or return to his sixth-grade dream of earning a master's in fine arts.

"On one hand I was really scared about being broke for my whole life, and I was really good at pre-law classes," Hemenway said. "My heart just wasn't into it. It sounds crass, but I said to my fiancée, now my wife, 'I would rather be broke and happy doing something I loved than rich and doing something I didn't care about.'"

Achieving his life goal, Hemenway became the youngest person accepted into the Iowa Writers Workshop.

It was a period of rapid transition for Hemenway. Two weeks prior to starting school, he married his wife, and in his second year, they welcomed a daughter into the world.

"I learned what it took to make this your art and your profession; to work at it every day, to come back to the table in the morning when you failed spectacularly in front of all of your friends and are racked with self-doubt," Hemenway said.

At Baylor, Hemenway said he models his teaching style after mentors from the Iowa Writers Workshop, Sam Chang and Ethan Canin.

Dr. Greg Garrett, professor of English, spoke of Hemenway with high regards.

"Whenever a new person comes into a setting, he can bring new ways of thinking and doing things that can refresh everyone's ways of thinking and doing things,"



CARLYE THORNTON | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Dr. Arna Bontemps Hemenway, assistant professor of English, fills his office with memories from travels and his favorite literary works, which includes his novel "Elegy on Kinderklavier." Hemenway is the youngest person to ever be accepted into the Iowa Writers Workshop.

Garrett said.

Kansas City, Mo., senior Alex Alford is a student of Hemenway's and said his encouragement and feedback enabled her to become a more confident writer.

"He is never judgmental about what we write or how we right," Alford said. "He always gives constructive criticism and I am confident that each writing assignment I turn in is better than the last."

In July, Sarabande Books published Hemenway's first book "Elegy on Kinderklavier". It is a series of short stories, most relating to the Iraq War, and a novella about the relationship of a couple and their 8-year-old son with a brain tumor.

It was added to the Barnes & Noble Summer 2014 Discover Great New Writers Selection, making it the second life goal Hemenway has set and accomplished.

"When I first went into the store and saw it on the shelf it was really special. It was on of those moments you saw it for years and years and then it happened," said Hemenway. "I can vividly remember the feeling walking out of a Barnes & Noble wanting it and not knowing if I would ever get that goal, knowing as a writer you can't control award series. It did feel awfully good; I'm not going to lie."

Kuma rolls into town with sensational sushi, subpar service

By NICOLETTE NILES
CONTRIBUTOR

When you think of Waco, sushi probably isn't the first thing that comes to mind. Usually, I just head to the sushi section at H-E-B to get my fix, so when I heard Kuma opened on Austin Avenue, I had to check it out. I wasn't sure what to expect.

FOOD REVIEW

The atmosphere was contemporary and trendy. The restaurant had an open layout and decor was upscale, although the chairs

and booths were spray painted black and did not look comfy or appealing.

I felt underdressed in my T-shirt and leggings. The formal ambience added to Kuma's upscale atmosphere.

The first thing I noticed was the kitchen and sushi bar were within an eye's view so customers could watch chefs prepare fresh sushi at the bar.

The staff was courteous, but they seemed a bit disorganized. I didn't receive my drink until I finished my meal, which was frustrating because it was a Monday and the restaurant wasn't crowded.

I placed my order and counted down the minutes until my food came out. It was ex-

citing to see my sushi prepared and all the ingredients looked crisp and fresh.

The sushi did not let me down. It was flavorful and delectable. I opted for the spider roll and a fire crunch roll. Each roll had eight pieces. If you enjoy sushi, I recommend trying any of their contemporary sushi rolls.

I also ordered a side of pork belly fried rice. The rice was topped with an over-easy egg, which I found unusual.

When I cut into it, yolk soaked my fried rice. I don't like runny eggs, so that ruined the fried rice for me. If that wasn't enough, when I bit into one of the pork pieces, which I thought was a pineapple, it was all fat and left a bad taste in my mouth.

At \$19, the check wasn't as painful as I thought it would be.

Considering the amount of sushi that comes with each order and how freshly it's prepared, I felt like I got my money's worth from the meal.

My rating for Kuma is a three out of five stars.

I expected the food to be better due to their upscale atmosphere. Even though my sushi was flavorful and the atmosphere was appealing, the pork belly fried rice and service were below average.

Would I go back to Kuma? Probably, but only for an order of their sushi and maybe an appetizer.

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Heritage Creamery: Coming Soon

Common Grounds owner plans to open organic creamery next door to coffee shop

By JON PLATT
REPORTER

Blake Batson, owner of Common Grounds, has a new trick up his sleeve to grow his business in the Waco community.

Batson, along with his team, plan to open an organic creamery, named Heritage Creamery, next door to Common Grounds at 1123 Eighth St.

Following his graduation from Baylor in 2008 with a degree in philosophy, Batson bought the local coffee shop and took it to new heights.

His additions to the coffee shop – an extension of the shop's menu, expanding the lot's entertainment venue and a food truck-style store in downtown Waco, called The Container – furthered him along the path to his current venture.

"We wanted to do something in that location to add value to Common Grounds, to add value to the whole property," he said. "The first thought was doing a restaurant, and that instantly scared me ... I didn't really want to go fully into food, yet. So we're thinking, 'What is similar to coffee with similar margins, similar shelf life?' Because we already get coffee. And

this idea of doing homemade, locally sourced ice cream came up."

Initially, Batson and his team planned for an opening in April 2015, but with recent setbacks in renovation he said a soft open is possible for mid-summer, with an official grand opening in the fall.

However, opening in the spring would be ideal, Batson said.

Josh Kulak, general manager of Common Grounds, said being a part of Common Grounds at such a critical junction for the brand keeps him coming into work each day.

With the addition of The Container, which he helped get off the ground, Kulak said the coffee shop's customer base is growing, especially since the mobile shop can be moved to big events.

"With the holidays, we've been moving it around a lot more," he said. "People want us at everything."

Kulak said The Container would be set up next to ESPN's GameDay perch Friday evening and Saturday morning and in Brazos Parking during the game.

Kyler Griffith, who works in Common Grounds' Container, said he expects this weekend's events to bring in a lot of customers for the mobile unit.

Griffith staffed the trailer at the opening of Waco's recently renovated Hippodrome and several events for Antioch Community Church since. But he predicts nothing will compare to the size and scope of customers on Saturday.

While The Container feeds the traditional brick-and-mortar location and vice versa, Heritage Creamery will only be connected to Common Grounds by their shared driveway and a common business owner, Kulak said. Batson said he agreed. Even in concerns of layout and design, Batson said he did not see the creamery as a mere extension of Common Grounds. He said the plan is to make Heritage more clean and less eclectic looking than his coffee shop.

However, Batson said he hopes customers will enjoy both atmosphere interchangeably.

"It will be like an overflow space for Common Grounds," he said. "My vision, and kind of what I see for the whole place, is: come get your coffee, come over and sit on the back patio behind the creamery and then eat a breakfast taco from the food truck. I want there to be a very complementary synergy."



PHOTO BY JON PLATT | LARIAT REPORTER

Blake Batson, the owner of Common Grounds, plans to open Heritage Creamery in the old location of Harts N' Crafts. The creamery will be organic and is located at 1123 Eighth St.

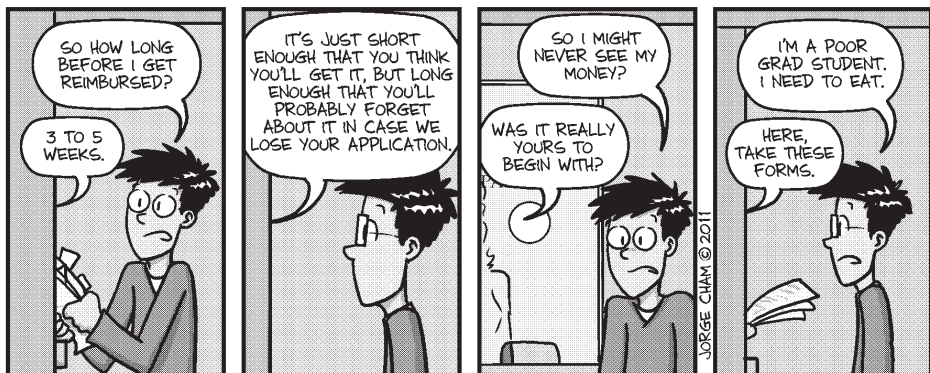
Furthering his business is deeply personal work for him, Batson said, because he sees it as his calling. The ice cream shop's name

came also a personal decision of Batson's.

"We'll be working with local farms to bring in produce for the

ice cream making," Batson said. "So the idea heritage – the heritage of Waco – was the thought behind it."

Piled Higher & Deeper Ph D.



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DAILY PUZZLES

Answers at www.baylorlariat.com

- Across**
- Barge, for one
 - Go up to one's ankles
 - Saw to a seat
 - Launder
 - Obi-Wan portrayer
 - Maine college town
 - Off-pickled fish
 - Kit for Mr. Fixit
 - Bygone
 - London facilities
 - Otologist's concern
 - Cartoon still
 - Studious-looking dwarf
 - Strikes out
 - Educational stage
 - Part of a Latin trio
 - Subatomic particle
 - Colleague of Sonia and Clarence
 - Musical dir.
 - Feature shared by the women vocalists concealed in 17-, 29-, 45- and 59-Across
 - P&L column
 - Not from around here
 - Word in a dramatic warning
 - Shout for the picador
 - Keep out
 - Bargains
 - Blvd. cousin
 - Bargain bin abbr.
 - Big ___
 - "So that's your game!"
 - Had a little lamb
 - "Just walk away"
 - Comes to terms
 - Razz
 - Ordering aid
 - Sea birds
 - "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
 - Cad's comeuppance
 - Fries, say

- Down**
- Rescue acronym
 - Roman statesman
 - Capital once called Christiania
 - They have very big calves
 - Super Soaker, e.g.
 - Ended a flight
 - Cal. page
 - Bounced off the walls
 - "Downton Abbey" title
 - Drop the ball
 - 1964 Ronettes hit
 - How an embarrassing question may be asked
 - "Mission aborted"
 - Org. chronicled in "The Puzzle Palace"
 - Glamour rival
 - More crafty
 - Sci-fi author Lester ___ Rey
 - Capacitance unit
 - Well in the lead
 - Passé
 - Wade's opponent
 - Jeans choice
 - Stows, as cargo
 - Much of 19- and 48-Down
 - Really drops the ball
 - Potato spot
 - Credit card issuer
 - Beats badly
 - Magazine with many white dresses
 - Actress Hagen
 - Aware of
 - Court figures: Abbr.
 - Horne on stage
 - Garr on screen
 - Wedding choice
 - "What ___ could it be?"
 - Prov. where the CN Tower is located
 - Bus. card number

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	7					1	9	
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Friday, Dec. 5

10am - 2pm // *ESPN State Your Case*

Follow [@BaylorSA](#) for details and come by to state your case for Baylor in the 2014 College Football Playoff Sub Den

5pm // Queue begins for students who plan to be in the *ESPN College GameDay* Student Pit

Overnight guidelines at [baylor.edu/fanzone](#). Food trucks will be on site. Sign-making supplies available.
McLane Stadium

Saturday, Dec. 6

5am // Food trucks available for breakfast

6am // *ESPN College GameDay* Student Pit opens
Students admitted on a first-come, first-served basis until full.
Student ID required. No in-and-out of this area.

6am // **Shuttle Service** from Downtown Waco and Baylor Campus to McLane Stadium

Downtown: 5th Street at Austin Ave. (shuttle runs until 1pm)
Campus: 5th Street near Penland Hall (shuttle runs until 1pm),
Ferrell Center (shuttle runs until 3:45pm), and University Parks entrance to "I Believe Walkway" (shuttle runs until 3:45pm)

Note: The Umphrey Pedestrian Bridge will close at 7am and remain closed until approximately 3pm. Fans are encouraged to utilize shuttles or approach McLane Stadium from MLK Blvd.

8am - 11am // *ESPN College GameDay* Live Broadcast
McLane Stadium, South Plaza

3:45pm // Bear Walk welcomes the Baylor Bears
Baylor Alumni Network Tent through South Plaza

6:45pm // Kickoff
Kansas State vs. Baylor

Visit [baylor.edu/fanzone](#) for more information and rules about signage or camping.

#LeavingNoDoubt