



MATT HELLMAN | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

## Bears chasing first Big 12 title

By DANIEL HILL  
SPORTS EDITOR

It's officially game week for the Baylor Bears football team. Fall camp has wrapped up and head coach Art Briles and the players have been working feverishly to game plan for the home season opener versus the Wofford Terriers at 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

Originally the Bears were scheduled to open up against Southern Methodist University, but SMU recently changed conferences from Conference USA to the Big East. As a result, the Mustangs replaced the Baylor matchup with a game against Montana State. This forced the Bears to search for an opponent.

Defensively, the Bears struggled mightily last season, finishing 113<sup>th</sup> in scoring defense. Despite the early season swoon, the Bears turned the defense around late in the season by dominating No. 1 Kansas State and by wrecking shop against UCLA in the Holiday Bowl with six sacks.

The Bears' defense should continue to build upon its late season 2012 successes to lead into 2013.

Key returning defensive members are senior safety Ahmad Dixon, senior safety Sam Holl, senior defensive end Chris McAllister, senior defensive end Terrence Lloyd, junior linebacker Bryce Hager and senior linebacker Eddie Lackey.

The Bears return seven starters to a defense that should be one of the better unit's in the Big 12. The Bears defense's hopes for this season are to start fast and find consistency early in the season.

"We're way more advanced," senior safety Ahmad Dixon said. "We have the knowledge of the game and we have the knowledge of the

defense. We know the ins and outs of our defense that will help us succeed. That's the plan and everything has been leading up to that plan so far. We've been doing a great job. We've been working hard and studying the film. We've been doing whatever it takes to come out the same way that we left out."

The offensive line should have a major advantage against Wofford's defense. This should allow the offensive line to dominate the trenches and dictate the tempo of the game.

"This offense is really good," senior running back Glasco Martin said. "It is an explosive offense. I honestly believe that if we execute to our best ability that no defense can really stop us. That's just my opinion."

Last season, Seastrunk broke the 1,000 yard rushing barrier and Martin ran for 889 yards. The two backs were not featured in the Baylor offense until late in the season. Once Seastrunk and Martin started to become the unquestioned go-to backs for Baylor, the offense ignited. It's no coincidence that the Bears won six of their last seven games down the stretch in 2012.

With the offensive line taking care of business, that will free up junior quarterback Bryce Petty, junior running back Lache Seastrunk and senior wide receiver Tevin Reese to electrify the Floyd Casey Stadium crowd and light up the scoreboard.

Wofford is located in Spartanburg, S.C. and is a NCAA Division I FCS football program.

Terriers head coach Mike Ayers is going into his 26<sup>th</sup> season at Wofford and has built the program into a perennial winner with nine winning seasons in the last ten years. Ayers has a 171-115-1 record in the last quarter century at Wofford.

Last season, the Terriers shared the Southern Conference title with a 9-4 record. Wofford went to the NCAA Playoffs for the third consecutive season but fell to North Dakota State who eventually went on to win the national championship in the quarterfinal round.

Wofford expects to have another winning season with 12 starters and 42 lettermen returning. The Terriers new starting quarterback will be junior James Lawson. Laswon saw action in seven games a year ago and even started two games at quarterback. On the season, Lawson completed 20 of 31 passes for 233 yards and did not throw a single interception.

In the backfield, the Terriers lose All-American fullback Eric Breitenstein.

Senior Donovan Johnson, who played halfback in 2012 and rushed for 473 yards will move to fullback. Three sophomores in Will Gay, Cam Flowers and Octavious Harden will share playing time at the halfback position.

Wofford returns two starters on the defensive line, two starters at linebacker and senior James Zotto returns at free safety.

Wofford is a FCS football program and Baylor plays at the more competitive FBS level. The reality is that on paper at least, Baylor's talent is far superior to Wofford's.

Wofford presents Baylor with a chance to tune up against lesser competition before the grueling Big 12 schedule begins.

"We've got a lot of momentum coming off the bowl game win last year and the way we finished the season," Briles said. "It's a new year. That was 2012, this is 2013. We've got new faces and new places in some areas, and those guys have to respond and perform. Everything else will fall into place."



# Expectations and confidence high for Seastrunk, Baylor

By SHEHAN JEYARAJAH  
SPORTS WRITER

If there's one thing that junior Baylor running back Lache Seastrunk does not lack, it's confidence.

"I'm going to win the Heisman. I'm going to win it in 2013," he said last December.

When recently asked whether he regretted making the Heisman comments, he was clear.

"I said I would win the Heisman because that's what I believe," Seastrunk said. "I have conviction. Nobody is going to take that away from me, that I believe I can do it."

Seastrunk's journey to this point has been anything but conventional.

Originally a five-star recruit out of Temple High School, Seastrunk committed to the University of Oregon after a stellar high school career where he had 4,127 yards and 52 touchdowns.

However, after a redshirt year and a recruiting controversy at Oregon surrounding the running back, Seastrunk was granted unconditional release from the Ducks.

Ten days later, he became a Baylor Bear.

After sitting out a required year due to NCAA policy, Seastrunk was on the active roster for the 2012 Bears. After a slow start, Seastrunk exploded after

being put in the starting lineup, rushing for 831 yards and six touchdowns in only six games, including a mammoth 185-yard performance against then No. 1 Kansas State in Waco.

*"It's short and sweet: Big 12 Championship, National Championship, Heisman trophy."*

Lache Seastrunk | Running Back

And then came the prediction heard around the world.

Before playing the Bears in the Bridgepoint Education Holiday Bowl in 2012, UCLA tight end Joseph Fauria made clear his grievances about Seastrunk's comments.

"I'm positive our defense will put that to rest," Fauria said. "Anyone that says they're going to win the Heisman publicly – no. You can't do that. Doesn't happen. Guys that are humble win the Heisman."

Seastrunk was named Offensive MVP of the bowl after rushing for 138 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries in a 49-26 Baylor blowout.

That sets the scene for Seastrunk's junior campaign. After

being asked about his expectations for himself and for the team this season, he had this to say.

"It's short and sweet: Big 12 Championship, National Championship, Heisman trophy."

If nothing else, Seastrunk's lofty goals have brought a plethora of attention to his quest.

Seastrunk won the Big 12 Offensive Newcomer of the Year award, was named to the Pre-season All-Big 12 Team, and has been named to watch lists for the Maxwell Award among others.

He also was named to ESPN's Preseason All-American team.

After learning he was also added to the watch list for the inaugural Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award watch list, Seastrunk was appreciative, but focused on the goals the team has set rather than individual accolades.

"It really doesn't matter about preseason awards," Seastrunk said. "This is about my team. I just want this season to finish out undefeated and get another bowl game."

"He's got their attention, and he's earned it by how he performed last fall," head football coach Art Briles said. "It's good for him, good for Baylor, and I'm glad he's being mentioned."

Seastrunk and the Bears begin the 2013 season against Wofford on Aug. 31 in the final season at Floyd Casey Stadium.



TRAVIS TAYLOR | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Junior running back Lache Seastrunk runs through drills at practice on Aug. 19. He averaged 7.7 yards per carry last season and recorded seven touchdowns.

Baylor Football Schedule	
Aug. 31	vs. Wofford
Sept. 7	vs. Buffalo
Sept. 14	Open Week
Sept 21	vs. Louisiana-Monroe
Oct. 5	vs. West Virginia
Oct. 12	at Kansas State
Oct. 19	vs. Iowa State
Oct. 26	at Kansas
Nov. 2	vs. Oklahoma
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Senior midfielder Kat Ludlow prepares for a throw in against Nebraska on Aug. 12, 2012.

# Bears look to continue last year’s success

By PARMIDA SCHAHHOSSEINI  
SPORTS WRITER

Baylor soccer enjoyed its best season in program history last year that ended with a trip to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen.

Despite a heartbreaking loss to eventual national champion North Carolina, Baylor is looking to build upon last year's success.

According to Top Drawer Soccer rankings, Baylor is ranked No. 10. In the Big 12 preseason poll the Bears are No. 3 for the second straight year. Co-head coach Marci Jobson isn't letting the extra attention or the lack of respect distract her team.

"I really don't bother myself that much with those types of things because it takes away from my focus, which is to get these girls, as good as they can be," Marci Jobson said. "I don't care honestly what anybody thinks about if they think we're great, if they think we stink; all I care about is how good we can actually become. I try to get my girls

as focused on that piece as well as our coaching staff that it doesn't really matter what anybody in the country thinks about us. All that matters is what we think about ourselves and how hard we work to be the best team that we can become."

In the past two years Baylor has risen to the occasion with back-to-back trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Last season Baylor finished with a 19-1-5 record en route to its first Big 12 Championship title. Baylor also finished with a 9-0-0 home record and hopes to continue being a threat at home.

"It's always fun to play at home and to bring it back to our roots," senior defender Taylor Heatherly said. "Traveling is awesome, but it's such a fun atmosphere here at Baylor."

Baylor's home field advantage has been key to its success. In the last two seasons Baylor had a record of 19 wins with only one tie and a loss.

However, the Bears have been

effective on the road as well, going 4-1-1 in 2011 and 6-1-5 in 2012.

Baylor lost three productive forwards, including Lisa Sliwinski and Dana Larsen, who finished fourth and fifth in scoring in program history.

Despite the losses, Baylor still has plenty of scorers.

Last season, 17 players scored at least one goal for Baylor, and only four were seniors. Now Baylor is faced with the task of producing consistent scoring.

"I think it just shows that it gives an opportunity for people to step up," senior defender Kat Ludlow said. "Yes, we lost powerhouses all over the field and we lost goal scorers, but that just gives the opportunity to other girls to step up and fill their shoes. I think that we have plenty of girls up top who have the potential."

Despite losing some of its top goal scorers, Baylor is bringing back plenty of talent. Baylor stresses team defense and are bringing back some key defenders. Ludlow, who is a candidate

for the 2013 CLASS Award, is the first Baylor soccer player to achieve such a feat. Senior defenders Selby Polley and Taylor Heatherly are also returning.

The returning starters have the experience that can make Baylor successful. Sophomore forward Bri Campos is poised to have a good season. As a freshman, Campos recorded three goals and four assists in her first year. Baylor has enjoyed success, but this year is a new team and for Jobson it's all about improvement.

"It's always hard for me to think back to last year because to me that's so in the past and we have a new group of girls," Jobson said. "I'm really excited about this group and seeing how good we can make this team. We have some experience and we have some new players. We just have to continue to develop the team and our goal is every game every practice to just keep getting better. I think we are good team right now and I want to see how good we can be in 20 games from now."

# Campos brings summer experience back to Baylor

By PARMIDA SCHAHHOSSEINI  
SPORTS WRITER

After capping off a successful season with a Big 12 Championship Title and being named to the Big 12 All-Newcomer team, sophomore forward Bri Campos has added another achievement to her resume because she made the cut for Mexico's U-20 National Team.

"The Baylor soccer family is very proud of Bri and the work she continues to put forth through the summer to remain in camp with Mexico's U-20 National Team," said Baylor co-head coach Paul Jobson. "We are ex-

cited to follow her progress and know that it will only prepare her for what's ahead this fall in Waco."

Campos made the 20-person roster after a successful camp, which took place on June 3-9 in Mexico City.

After earning another trip, Campos also participated in the VIII International Cup of Women's Soccer Fair of the Flowers Medellin from July 27 to Aug. 3.

This experience was beneficial for Campos as she learned how to get used to different coaching styles.

Mental toughness is another trait Campos gained while training with the National Team.

This experience has allowed

her to get out of her comfort zone as a player, giving her the chance to adjust to different situations on the field.

"It's a lot different," Campos said. "Here it's more about like hard work and grit and toughness and over there it's very methodical, very planned out like what run you have to make or what pass you have to make. It's a lot easier playing here because it fits me a lot better."

As a freshman last season, Campos made 22 starts in 24 games and finished fourth in the team with 10 points.

She had four assists and three goals, two of which were game-winning goals.

"I think her ability is just amazing and it's limitless," Baylor co-head coach Marci Jobson said. "I think that girl can go very far with her soccer career, but I think for her it was a little bit of a maturation process, for her to mature, to see that next level to see how good she can be and how good she can become. I have no doubts that she can play on the women's national team; she is that type of player. I think it gave her the confidence to see 'hey, all the hard work I put into I'm reaping some of those rewards.' She doesn't pay attention to that stuff, but she's always the first on the field, the last off the field and I love to see players like that reap some of the

rewards."

Campos hopes to bring that experience to Baylor, but hopes to improve her game as well.

During her tenure with the Mexican National U-20 Team, Campos has had the opportunity to learn the team's system, but the limited time made it harder for her to work on her game.

Despite having just minimal time to practice while with the Mexican National Team, she is making the most of her time at Baylor to develop her skills.

Campos also made the Pre-season All-Big 12 Team along with senior defender Kat Ludlow, giving Baylor its first preseason all-league honorees since 2003.

Upcoming Schedule		
Aug. 30	at Washington	
Sept. 1	at SMU	
Sept. 6	vs. Missouri	
Sept. 8	at Texas A&M	
Sept. 13	vs. Cal Poly	
Sept. 15	vs. McNeese St.	
Sept. 20	vs. North Texas	

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# Baylor football preview: Pos

By DANIEL HILL  
SPORTS EDITOR

## QUARTERBACKS

Baylor has been blessed with phenomenal play from the quarterback position for the last few years with Robert Griffin III winning the Heisman Memorial Trophy in 2011 and Nick Florence breaking the school record for single season passing yards in 2012 with 4,309.

Now, it's junior Bryce Petty's turn to take the helm at quarterback for the Bears. Petty is a 6-foot-3, 230 lb. mobile quarterback that possesses NFL caliber arm strength. He's also extremely

athletic and should add a dynamic presence to the Baylor offense as a running QB. With the plethora of weapons that Petty has to work with at receiver and running back, Petty should have no problems leading the offense and putting points on the scoreboard. Expectations are sky high for every Baylor signal-caller and Bryce Petty should be another superstar type of quarterback for the Bears.

Behind Petty, the Bears are stocked for the future with red-

shirt freshman quarterback Seth Russell. Coming out of the same hometown of Garland as Nick Florence, Russell was a three-star recruit according to Scout.com. Regarded as a dual-threat quarterback, Russell is presumably the quarterback of the future after Bryce Petty's junior and senior campaigns.

6-foot-4, 220 lb. freshman Chris Johnson also looks to have a bright future as a Baylor quarterback.



TRAVIS TAYLOR | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Junior quarterback Bryce Petty throws a pass during practice on Aug. 20, 2013. This will be Petty's first season as Baylor's starting quarterback.

## RECEIVERS

RECEIVERS: Baylor is becoming known for producing highly talented wide receivers after two straight years of sending a receiver to the NFL in the first three rounds of the draft in Kendall Wright, Josh Gordon and Terrance Williams.

Baylor could have one of the top receiver groups in the nation this season led by senior inside receiver Tevin Reese. Reese hauled in 53 passes last season for 957 yards and 9 touchdowns. In his career, Reese has stacked up 2,235 receiving yards.

"Tevin is a special guy," Petty said. "I mean they are all special and they make my job a lot easier and make me look better than I am."

The scary thing is that Reese might not even be the team's most dangerous receiver this season. Freshman wide receiver Robbie Rhodes is a five-star recruit and was one of the best high school receivers in all of America last year. It's yet to be determined how Rhodes will adjust to the caliber of Big 12 play, but the talent Rhodes possesses is undeniable and he should be a game changer at receiver for the Bears.

"Robbie's got a lot of great qualities and football might be on the back end of them," head coach Art Briles said. "He's a fun loving young man who has no evil in his heart. He really just is a gracious human being and that's what

gives him the capacity to be exceptional. That's what he has the advantage of being one day because of his talent."

Junior wide receiver Antwan Goodley and junior inside receiver Levi Norwood are both exceptional pass catchers and will bring valuable experience and consistency to the receiving corps. For the third straight season, Norwood will also handle punt return duties for the Bears.

Another breakout candidate at wide receiver this season could be sophomore Jay Lee. At 6-foot-2 and with a 215 lb. frame, Lee possesses the size and speed to display a highlight reel on the gridiron this season.



TRAVIS TAYLOR | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Junior wide receiver Levi Norwood warms up before practice on August 20, 2013. Norwood looks to have a breakout junior season.

## RUNNING BACKS

Baylor has a legitimate Heisman contender at the running back position in junior Lache Seastrunk. Down the stretch of last season, the 5-foot-10, 210 lb. speedster propelled Baylor's rushing attack with 637 yards in the final four games of 2012. On the season, Seastrunk rushed for 1,012 yards on only 131 attempts for a 7.7 yards per carry average. If he can stay healthy, Sea-

strunk will certainly see more than 131 carries throughout the course of this season and it's certainly not crazy to think he could rush for 1,500 yards.

In addition to Seastrunk, the Baylor backfield will be bolstered by senior running back Glasco Martin, who rushed for 889 yards and 15 touchdowns in 2012. Martin is a 6-foot, 220 lb. back with more

of a downhill rushing style compared to Seastrunk. Seastrunk will provide the elusiveness and shake, while Martin will deliver a battering rushing style. Between Seastrunk and Martin, the Bears have arguably the best tandem of running backs in the Big 12 and one of the top duos in all of college football.



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Junior running back Lache Seastrunk carries the ball against Kansas on Nov. 3, 2012. The Bears won the game 41-14.

## OFFENSIVE LINE

The left side of the offensive line might be the best left side in all of America between All-American senior left guard Cyril Richardson and 2012 Freshman All-American selection sophomore left tackle Spencer Drango.

Both linemen possess NFL frames and talent. As just a sophomore, Drango has established himself as a highly skilled left tackle. Weighing in at 315 lbs. and standing 6-foot-6, Drango has quick feet and is a first-rate pass protection tackle.

Richardson is a powerful, quick guard who is overpowering with run blocking and an impenetrable pass blocker. It's not a stretch to say he might be the best offensive lineman in America. In several publications, the 6-foot-5, 340 lb. Richardson has been projected as a future first round NFL draft pick. With a 400 lb. bench press and a 665

lb. squat, the third year starter is the anchor of the offensive line.

"Cyril's different," Briles said. "Like I've been saying, he's the best offensive lineman in all of America. If somebody wants to challenge that, come on. We've got proof to show that he is. He's a guy that certainly is at a level that not many people are."

In the spring, starting junior right tackle Troy Baker tore his ACL in his left knee. The injury caused a ripple effect on the offensive line. Senior Kelvin Palmer moved from center to right tackle and senior Stefan Huber switched from right guard to center. 6-foot-6, 330 lb. Desmine Hilliard took over as the starting right guard. Both Palmer and Huber have extensive playing time under their belts but Hilliard will have to prove himself as the offensive line gels as a unit. If Baker's rehab goes as planned,

he could be back on the field in October. Chemistry can play a vital role in the strength of any offensive line. The concern for Baylor is that the right side of the offensive line might have a steep learning curve with new faces in new places.

"I feel really good about the offensive line," Briles said. "They've done well all through the spring even after Troy [Baker] went down and they haven't done anything disappointing even until now. They're a very cohesive unit. Hubert at center has been fabulous, not only because of his snapping ability but also because of his leadership abilities. He's a gung-ho rally guy you've got to have at that position and all of those other guys have done extremely well."



TRAVIS TAYLOR | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Senior left guard Cyril Richardson works on footwork and mobility drills during practice on Aug. 20, 2012. The All-American is regarded as one of the nation's best interior linemen.



# tion by position breakdown

## TIGHT ENDS

The tight ends have been overlooked, yet vital part of Baylor offense for the last seasons. Fortunately, the rs are stocked with two ex- periented senior tight ends in dan Najvar and Jerod Monk. Last season, Najvar dis- veyed a plethora of skills to the Bears offense. He would up as a conventional tight l, as a slot receiver and as a

fullback. The jack-of-all-trades 6-foot-6, 265 lb. tight end for the Baylor offense is a punish- ing blocker at the line of scrim- mage and coming out of the backfield. Monk tore his pectoral muscle last season against West Virginia and missed the rest of the season. Fortunately, Monk received a hardship waiver to be eligible for the 2013 campaign.

The 6-foot-4, 285 lb. tight end is the most experienced player on the Baylor roster with 40 games played. When the Baylor spread of- fense gets into the red zone, two tight end sets could become a valuable weapon. Both Najvar and Monk pos- sess reliable hands. Last season, Najvar caught 10 passes for 80 yards and two touchdowns.



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

ior tight end Jordan Najvar runs after the catch against Sam Houston State on Sept. 17, 2012. This Najvar's third season as a starter.

## DEFENSIVE LINE

At defensive end, the Bears are well stocked with two seniors in Terrance Lloyd and Chris McAl- lister. An impact transfer from Penn State is sophomore Shawn Oakman, who is eligible to play this season after sitting out all of last season due to NCAA transfer rules. The 6-foot-9, 275 lb. Oak- man will bring a physical pres- ence to the defensive end rotation.

Sophomore defensive end Jamal Palmer will also bring depth to the defensive end position. If there is a weakness this se- son in the Bears' defense, it lies in the defensive tackle position. Sophomore Beau Blackshear is the starter at nose tackle and Trevor Clemons-Valdez is first on the depth chart at defensive tackle. Sophomore Suleiman Masumbuko

will back up Clemons-Valdez. With the speed and tempo of Big 12 offenses, the defensive line will be on a regular rotation to keep fresh players in the game. Highly touted freshman nose tack- le Andrew Billings will see imme- diate playing time and he possesses the size and the ability to become a dominating player at the line of scrimmage.



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Senior defensive end Terrance Lloyd goes after the passer on Nov. 3, 2012 against Kansas. He helped Baylor win its Homecoming game against the Jayhawks.

## LINEBACKERS

LINEBACKERS: At the linebacker position the Bears have a formidable duo of starters. Last season as a junior, outside linebacker Eddie Lackey stepped in as a transfer and im- mediately brought intensity and a spark to the defense. Now as a

senior, Lackey returns for his final season. Lackey has elite speed as a linebacker with a 4.53 second 40- yard dash and was all over the field with 104 tackles and four intercep- tions. Junior All-Big 12 middle line- backer Bryce Hager led the Big

12 in tackles last season with 124. Entering his second season as a starter, Hager should become even more of a playmaker for the Bears. Hager runs a 4.49 second 40-yard dash and has shown an ability to quickly read the defense, dissect the play and get to the football.



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Junior Linebacker Bryce Hager makes a tackle against Sam Houston State on Sept. 17, 2012. Baylor's defense will look to continue building upon momentum gained late last season.

## DEFENSIVE BACKS

In Baylor's 4-2-5 defensive alignment, there is a nickelback position would categorized as a defensive back, but actually plays more like a linebacker inside the box and tends to be closer to the line of scrimmage. Com- ing into the 2013 season, senior Ahmad Dixon and senior Sam Holl switched positions. In 2012, Dixon played the nickelback role and Holl was a safety. For this se- son, Holl will come up closer to the line of scrimmage to take over the nickelback role and Dixon will drop back to play safety. The position change should help bolster the productivity of both players as the move suits their strengths. Holl is a reliable tackler and has excellent range. Moving closer to the line of scrim- mage will pay dividends for Holl and the Baylor defense as a whole. For Dixon, who runs a 4.39 sec- ond 40-yard dash, dropping back in the secondary will allow him to flash his superior speed on the

gridiron. Having Dixon's speed and aggressive hitting style on the back end of the defense will help fortify the squad against big plays in 2013. At the cover safety spot, sopho- more Terrell Burt, who played in all 13 games last season as a fresh- man, will be asked to takeover the starting role. Burt was baptized by fire last season when he was forced to replace injured starter Mike Hicks for much of the season. That experience should serve Burt well heading into this season. At cornerback, senior Demetri Goodson and senior Joe Williams are listed as starters. Senior K.J. Morton will be the third corner- back. The good news for the Bears is that they have plenty of experi- ence at corner but they don't nec- essarily have a high consistency or reliability level at the position, mostly due to injuries. Former Gonzaga point guard Demetri has had an injury riddled Baylor career so far after season

ending injuries to his ankle in 2011 and arm in 2012. He could be Baylor's best cornerback and he has NFL potential if he can only stay healthy. "I'm liking the way our cor- ners are doing," senior safety Ah- mad Dixon said. "All three of our corners, Joe Williams, Demetri Goodson and K.J. Morton, all three of those guys have stepped up big during two-a-days and they're pretty good." The Bears in 2012, ranked 113<sup>th</sup> in scoring defense by allow- ing 37.2 points per game. With seven defensive starters returning on defense, the Bears defense must improve in 2013. An improved defense to go along with flashy, potent high-scoring offense could lead to Baylor making a run at the Big 12 championship.



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Senior safety Ahmad Dixon tries to deflect the quarterback's pass against Sam Houston State on Sept. 17, 2012. Dixon is one of the main emotional leaders of the Bears' defense.



# Adom looks to lead volleyball team

By SHEHAN JEYARAJAH  
SPORTS WRITER

Senior outside hitter Zoe Adom was named to the Pre-season All-Big 12 Team in early August.

Adom has been named team captain for two straight seasons and was a 2012 First-Team All-Big 12 selection.

“It’s an honor to be put up there with all the other girls in the Big 12,” Adom said. “I just love being a leader, a role model for my teammates.”

Adom was MVP of her Trinity High School team and named 5-5A First Team All District, but was not considered a highly touted prospect.

After redshirting the 2009 season, Adom increased her starts every season.

Last season she started 27 matches for the Lady Bears and is an integral member of the Baylor volleyball program.

During Big 12 play last season, Adom ranked fifth in the Big 12 with 3.37 kills per set. She also

led her team with 199 kills in that stretch.

She was named one of a record three Baylor Lady Bears named All-Big 12.

Adom finished the Big 12 season strong last season against Texas Tech in Lubbock, she had 19 kills and only a single error while hitting .500 in a 3-1 Baylor victory.

What doesn’t show up on a box score is that Adom has been named to the Big 12 Commissioner’s Honor Roll five times, the Academic All-Big 12 First Team for two straight seasons and earned a spot on the Baylor Dean’s List.

Despite dedicating so much time to volleyball, she has carved out time in her schedule to major in health science studies while being classified as pre-physical therapy.

“You’ve got to make sure you’re doing the right things like taking care of your body and mind,” Adom said. “Playing volleyball, working out, going to class, that’s going to do that for me, so that’s

what I do. I’ve been here for five years, so let’s hope I’ve got it right by now”

Baylor volleyball came out of the gates on fire in 2012, winning 13 of their first 14 matches.

“Zoe is twice, maybe three times the player she was last year. She has not had one bad practice and is playing at an all-time high. We’re excited about what Zoe’s come to do in her senior year.”

Jim Barnes | Head Coach

Their early season hopes were dampened by their 7-9 record in the Big 12, and they narrowly missed out on a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

“It fuels the fire for this season,” Adom said. “But our moti-

vation is within God right now, so we’re not really looking in the past, we’re looking to the future.”

Head volleyball coach Jim Barnes is optimistic about Adom’s performance this upcoming season.

“Zoe is twice, maybe three times the player she was last year, and she was All-Conference last year,” Barnes said. “She has not had one bad practice and is playing at an all-time high. We’re excited about what Zoe’s come to do in her senior year.”

Adom sets the bar just as high for herself and her teammates.

“I expect for this team to go all out. That’s our thing. We’ve got our eye on it this season; that’s our quote, our motto. We’re going to go beast mode this season. It’s going to be fun, it’s going to be exciting, and we’re just going to work until we reach that tournament.”

Fans can get an early look at Baylor volleyball during their annual intra-squad scrimmage at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Ferrell Center.



Senior outside hitter Zoe Adom looks to spike the ball in a match against TCU on Oct. 17, 2012.

# Baylor volleyball optimistic about starting new season

By SHEHAN JEYARAJAH  
SPORTS WRITER

Despite finishing with 20 wins for the sixth time in program history, Baylor women’s volleyball fell just short of the NCAA tournament last season.

“Last year was a real bummer,” senior libero Kayci Evans said. “We didn’t finish how we wanted to.”

Sophomore outside hitter Thea Munch-Soegaard started last season as a freshman and ranked fourth on the team with 293 digs and fifth on the team with 184 kills. Munch-Soegaard has high expectations for the upcoming season.

“Win the Big 12,” Munch-Soegaard said. “That’s the big

goal. We’re going to take it one day at a time and work our way to that, but we know we can do it.”

The Bears are ranked sixth in the Big 12 out of nine teams, but this Baylor squad has higher aspirations for the season.

“We got our eye on it this season,” said senior outside hitter Zoe Adom. “That’s our quote, our motto. We’re just going to work until we reach that tournament.”

The biggest question facing this team heading into 2013 is experience.

Baylor lost four starters to graduation last season, including top two overall scorers in right side hitter Alyssa Dibbern and middle hitter Torri Campbell. Out of the 16 players on the roster, only two are seniors.

What the Bears might lack in experience, they more than make up for in talent.

“This team is by far the fastest team we’ve ever had,” head volleyball coach Jim Barnes said. “I feel like Baylor football here with their receivers. This gym has been just incredible with the speed we have on the team and the shape we’re in is incredible. Athletically, we’re going to be able to match up with anybody, and speed-wise, I think we exceed any team we play.”

Returning for the Bears is the aforementioned All-Big 12 First Team member senior outside hitter Adom. She was recently named to the 2013 Big 12 Pre-season Team.

“It’s an honor to be put up there with all the others girls in

the Big 12,” Adom said. “I just love being a leader, a role model for my teammates.”

During Big 12 play in 2012, Adom led the team with 219.5 points, 199 kills and 3.37 kills per set.

Barnes noted that he has been experimenting with a 6-2 system for this team that he feels takes advantage of this team’s strengths. The 6-2 system has two setters on the court to take the pressure off each other and keeps six attackers in the extended rotation.

“Our strength is our pin hitters, and we gain an extra pin hitter in a 6-2. There’s always a left and right hitter along with your middle so the strengths we have on our team are focused on more in a 6-2.”

The Bears begin their season at Colorado State on Aug. 28. Baylor’s first home game is on Sept. 3 against Southern Methodist at the Ferrell Center.

Baylor hosts two tournaments this season in the Baylor Classic tournament on Sept. 6-7 and the Baylor Invitational Tournament on Sept. 13-14.

Baylor volleyball has two games nationally broadcast on ESPN.

The first is on Oct. 2 against nationally ranked No. 1 Texas Longhorns and then on Oct. 30 at No. 20 Kansas Jayhawks.

Fans can get an early look at Baylor Bears volleyball during their annual Green and Gold intrasquad scrimmage at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Ferrell Center.

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# ‘Wide Receiver U’ stocked for 2013 season

By SHEHAN JEYARAJAH  
SPORTS WRITER

Ever since the beginning of the Art Briles era in 2008, Baylor has been characterized by strong receiver play. David Gettis, Kendall Wright, Josh Gordon and Terrance Williams are wide receivers from Baylor who have been drafted since the Briles era began. All four Baylor products are expected to produce for NFL teams this season.

This 2013 team has much of the same talent as other teams that were under the direction of Briles, but the vast majority of this receiving corps is unknown and unproven.

“We’ve got some guys who can play,” head coach Art Briles said. “A few of them are unproven, but the only way to get proven is get on the field and do it. When you get your driver’s license, you can’t drive. Once you start driving, you think you know how to do it. Once they get on the field and play in game-like situations, the experience factor is gone.”

The most accomplished receiver in this rotation is senior inside receiver Tevin Reese. Reese, who played with junior running back Lache Seastrunk at Temple High School, was second on the team in receiving with 957 yards and nine touchdowns last season behind All-American and current Dallas Cowboys receiver Terrance Williams.

Reese is known for his exceptional speed and at Temple was a state qualifier in track.

While at Baylor, Reese has been one of the best deep threats in Baylor history.

In the two seasons that he has had 50 or more receptions, he has averaged 17.6 yards per catch.

To put that into perspective, Kendall Wright, the most prolific receiver in Baylor history, had a career average of 13.3 yards per catch. Reese said he enjoys making the dynamic play but doesn’t want to singularly be known as just a home run hitter.

“I want to show people I’m not just a deep threat,” Reese said. “I want to show I can catch the little ten yard outs and make something out of it. Just go out there and play physical.”

The other returner at inside receiver is junior Waco product Levi Norwood. He had a breakout season with 487 yards and a touchdown last year with Nick Florence at quarterback. Norwood could play a similar role

in the offense this season.

Perhaps the most anticipated debut is that of freshman wide receiver and Fort Worth product Robbie Rhodes. Rhodes was rated as a five-star recruit by scout.com and picked Baylor over offers from University of Oklahoma, University of Texas and Texas A&M University. Scout.com also rated Rhodes as the second best wide receiver in the nation.

Big 12 analyst Max Olson from ESPN named Rhodes as one of his top five impact Big 12 freshmen due to his “elite speed and size” for the wide receiver position.

Despite Coach Briles saying he has “exceptional talent,”

Rhodes has also impressed with his humbleness and personality.

“Robbie’s got a lot of great qualities and football might be on the back end of them,” Briles said. “He’s a fun-loving young man with no evil in his heart. This is just a gracious human being. That’s what gives him the opportunity to be exceptional.”

Rhodes said he wants to help the team in any way he can this season.

“I just want to fit in,” Rhodes said. “Just be a team player, role player, whatever they need me to be.”

Outside of the three established names, the Bears may have some hidden gems.

Midland junior Antwan

Goodley is a versatile player at the wide receiver position. Last season, Goodley had 171 yards receiving, 26 yards rushing and two receiving touchdowns to go along with 542 kick return yards in limited action.

“Goodley is a guy that potentially could be a very, very dynamic player,” Coach Briles said. “You’re talking about a guy that’s big and that ran a 21.2 [seconds] in high school in 200 [meters]. He’s an exceptional athlete that we’ll expect a lot out of this year.”

The only other receiver with any game experience is Clay Fuller, a junior receiver from Bulverde. Fuller may not get many opportunities on this

team, but there are few players with a more entertaining backstory.

Fuller was drafted into Major League Baseball, and played in the Los Angeles Angels organization for six years.

He is now 26 years old and still has two years of NCAA eligibility left.

After retiring from baseball in 2011, Fuller walked onto the football team and was awarded a scholarship before this season. Fuller is a 6-foot-1-inch tall receiver who runs a 4.34 40-yard dash, which is faster than noted Baylor speedster Tevin Reese. Fuller is a backup at both inside and wide receiver.

Sophomore wide receiver Jay Lee of Allen and redshirt freshman Corey Coleman of Richardson both appear on the pre-season depth chart even though neither of them have any statistical measures yet.

Junior quarterback Bryce Petty is encouraged by the talent and depth he sees at the receiver position.

“The receivers are having a great camp,” Petty said. “There’s not really one receiver I have special chemistry with. I love all those guys. When you look at all of them on paper, they are all special.”

Redshirt freshman quarterback Seth Russell agrees with Petty’s assessment of the receiving corps.

“The receivers are awesome. They’re definitely the best,” Russell said. “You can throw it to anybody, and they’re going to catch it. That’s definitely a great feeling to have when you’re a quarterback.”

Baylor football begins its 2013 season at 6:30 p.m. Saturday against Wofford in the final season at Floyd Casey Stadium.



Senior inside receiver Tevin Reese celebrates during a game against Kansas on Sept. 2, 2012



Freshman wide receiver Robbie Rhodes practices on Aug. 19 to get ready for Baylor's first game against Wofford on Saturday.

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# Big 12 football race wide-open in 2013

By PARMIDA SCHAHHOSSEINI  
SPORTS WRITER

Who will come out on top? That's the burning question many are asking as Big 12 teams went though the offseason. Eights teams are expected to have different quarterbacks this fall and some teams made coaching changes. Texas Tech gained a new coach in Kliff Kingsbury, the former Tech quarterback was Johnny Manziel's former offensive coordinator at Texas A&M during his Heisman winning season. The Big 12 also didn't get much respect in the AP poll. No Big 12 team is ranked in the top 10 this season. This was also the first time since 2000 that Oklahoma began outside of the top 10. The Big 12 is up for grabs this year with no obvious clear-cut favorite.

**Baylor Bears:**

The Baylor Bears finished the 2012-2013 season winning five out of the last six games including a 49-26 win over UCLA in the Holiday Bowl. Despite losing quarterback Nick Florence, wide receivers Terrance Williams, Lanear Sampson and center Ivory Wade, Baylor is poised to put up similar numbers with head coach Art Briles at the helm. Briles has turned Baylor into a contender after leading the Bears to three straight bowl games. Baylor returns 12 starters including three on offense and seven on defense. Senior kicker Aaron Jones and junior punter Spencer Roth also return. Baylor also adds two high-profile recruits in freshman defensive tackle Andrew Billings and freshman wide receiver Robbie Rhodes, who were rated as four-star recruits by rivals.com, exemplifying the type of program Briles has built. Baylor's defense was ranked 119 out of 120 FBS teams, but with depth and experience it's poised to be a threat. During the four game losing streak, Baylor's defense gave up an average of 206.5 rush yards, 393 passing yards and 599.5 to-



MATT HELLMAN | MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Junior running back Lache Seastrunk runs toward the end zone against Kansas on Nov. 3, 2012. Baylor won the game 41-14.

tal yards per game for an average of 6.87 yards per play. The Bears turned it around in the last six games giving up 442.2 total yards. The Bears have also switched the positions of senior Sam Holl from safety to nickel back and senior Ahmad Dixon from nickel back to safety, taking advantage of his speed. Despite losing Williams and Sampson, the receiving corps is still expected to thrive in Briles' system. Junior receiver Tevin Reese is expected to be the number one receiver after making 53 catches for 957 yards and nine touchdowns. Junior receiver Levi Norwood also added 487 yards on 40 catches. In addition, Rhodes is expected to be a solid contributor. "They are doing great," junior quarterback Bryce Petty said. "They are having a great camp. We have a

lot of guys coming back. We lost Terrance, we lost Lanear, which are big losses, but at the same time we have new guys stepping up. They are having a great camp and doing a good job. We are just ready to go." The most notable change is at the quarterback position, but life did go on after Robert Griffin III's Heisman Trophy 2011 season. Last year, Nick Florence broke Griffins record throwing for 4,309 yards averaging 375.1 of total offence per game. Petty is expected to succeed due to Briles' quarterback friendly system. Baylor is regarded as a sleeper team and has the potential to post 10 or more wins this season. Expectations are high this season and Seastrunk can attest to that. "It's short and sweet: Big 12 championship, national championship and Heisman Trophy," Seast-

runk said. **Oklahoma Sooners:** Despite the high expectations, Oklahoma's disappointing season was capped off with a 41-13 blowout against Texas A&M at the AT&T Cotton Bowl. Bob Stoops fired three assistants as a result. Former quarterback Landry Jones is now on the Pittsburgh Steelers, so it looked like the job belonged to junior Blake Bell, who is regarded as a running quarterback. Bell rushed for 24 touchdowns, mostly in short yardage situations, but has only thrown 20 passes. On Aug. 22, Stoops announced that freshman Trevor Knight would be the starting quarterback. Knight does have help with senior running back Damien Williams who ran for 946 yards and 11 touchdowns last season. Senior wide receiver Jalen Saunders

and sophomore receiver Sterling Shepard combined for 1,450 yards on 107 catches. The previous season has not been kind to the Oklahoma defense as it gave up school record in yards allowed. In 2012 Oklahoma gave up 398.3 yards per game. With only three previous starters projected to start, Oklahoma hopes to rebuild its defense and to play better up front. **Oklahoma State Cowboys:** Oklahoma State is the favorite in many polls to win the Big 12 title. Senior Clint Chelf won the quarterback battle after throwing 1,588 yards and 15 touchdowns. Senior wide receiver Charlie Moore has 42 career catches for 656 yards and seven touchdowns and junior receiver Josh Stewart caught 101 passes last season. The defense is expected to be the strength of the Cowboys as they return seven defensive starters. Senior linebacker Shaun Lewis had 25 tackles for a loss, five interceptions and 10 fumble recoveries in his career. Senior strong safety Shamiel Gary made 72 tackles last season. **Texas Longhorns:** Despite coming off a nine-win season, Texas hasn't displayed the quality of football it is usually accustomed to. The Longhorns have improved since its 5-7 season in 2010, but fans are looking for more. Junior quarterback David Ash returns as the starting quarterback. Ash was ranked 21<sup>st</sup> nationally in passing efficiency, but his consistency has come into question. Against Oklahoma, Kansas and TCU, Ash completed only 47 percent of his passes throwing six interceptions and no touchdowns. Texas lost wide receiver Marquise Goodwin, but the Longhorns hope senior receiver Mike Davis and junior receiver Jaxon Shipley to fill the void. Davis accounted for 57 catches for 939 yards last year and emerged as a deep threat in 2012. Shipley had 59 catches for 737 yards and is expected to thrive in a new system with Major Applewhite calling the plays. Similar to Oklahoma, Texas' defense also allowed more yards in 2012 than any defense in Texas' history. In 2012, the defense gave up 29.2 points per game and 404.2 total yards per game. While leading tackler Kenny Vaccaro is now a New Orleans Saint, Texas hopes that junior linebacker Steve Edmond makes up for the loss. Special teams have also been a question for Texas after inconsistency last year. Sophomore kicker Nick Jordan went 9-for-15 last year with his longest field goal being 40 yards. However, Jordan did make seven of his last 10 kicks. Sophomore Nick Rose, who is also competing for the job, has a big leg. **TCU Horned Frogs:** With expectations high, TCU faltered after losing starting senior quarterback Casey Pachall last season. While the sophomore backup quarterback Trevone Boykin led TCU to a 7-6 season, he only completed 57.2 percent of his passes. The return of senior running back Waymon James should help bring balance to the offense. Pachall returns for the 2013 season as a senior to takeover as quarterback once again. Pachall should bring consistency to the offense. After losing wide receivers Josh Boyce and Skye Dawson from last season, sophomore LaDarius Brown and junior Brandon Carter need to step up. Carter accounted for 590 yards and 6 touchdowns including one for 80 yards. TCU is expected to be strong defensively after leading the Big 12 in total defense and ranks No. 16 nationally. Sophomore defensive end Devonte Fields led the Big 12 with 18.5 tackles for loss and was named Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year by the Associated Press. Junior linebacker Joel Hasley returns after accounting for 79 tackles including 8.5 for loss.

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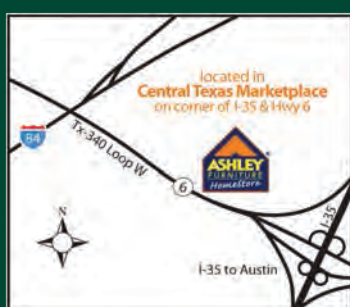
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