Baylor looks to increase security, safety by installing new cameras

KALYN STORY  Staff Writer

Baylor’s department of public safety recently completed the first phase of a four-phase security project designed to increase campus safety by installing cameras around the perimeter of campus.

Brad Rosenthal, director of technical services, said the perimeter security cameras in the next step in a layered security system to protect students on campus.

“We’ve been working on this project for months and are very excited to continue its implementation,” Rosenthal said.

The first phase was installing cameras from Dutton Avenue to University Parks Drive. In phase two, which the department started working on about two weeks ago, cameras will cover Eighth Street. For phase three, the department will install cameras behind Armstrong Nursing Library and Waco Hall and will split from Pat L. Forster Campus for Business and Innovation to University Parks Drive. Finally, for the fourth phase, the department will install cameras along University Parks Drive to Dutton Avenue.

Mark Childers, associate vice president of public safety and security, said there was an idea to increase security staff, which includes staff to monitor the cameras 24/7. The cameras are not actively monitored, but the footage is available to be reviewed if there is an incident. Childers said he hopes this idea will be in place this fall.

“We are constantly reassessing campus security and seeing how we can make it safer,” Childers said. “We want to be better today, better tomorrow, and keep campus safe.”

About a year ago, staff from the department of public safety visited Virginia Tech and Yale and saw similar exterior monitoring systems. About a year ago, staff from the department of public safety visited Virginia Tech and Yale and saw similar exterior monitoring systems.

Diadeloso

Second annual Clothesline Project raises awareness for sexual assault

PABLO GONZALES  Assistant Web Editor

The It’s on Us Advisory Council hosted its second annual Clothesline Project on Sunday evening in the Bill Daniel Student Center to launch National Prevent Sexual Assault Month.

The Clothesline Project was started in 1990 on Cape Cod, Mass., to address the issue of abuse against women, according to the National Clothesline Project Network. The project was started as a way for anyone to express their feelings by decorating a blank T-shirt, and to raise awareness for sexual assault.

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“These events are important because I don’t think very many people are aware of the realities of sexual assault,” said Ganzterman, president of the It’s on Us Advisory Council. “This is an issue that is not often discussed because it is so sensitive and so personal. People have a lot of misconceptions about sexual assault, and I think when people look at the shirts they do the shirts will be able to better understand the experiences of being a sexual assault survivor.”

The It’s on Us Advisory Council has created a campaign to spread awareness about sexual assault on campus throughout the month of April. Considering recent events regarding the sexual assault scandal at Baylor, the campaign has sparked an interest among students.

The second annual Clothesline Project was started in 1990 on Cape Cod, Mass., to address the issue of abuse against women, according to the National Clothesline Project Network. The project was started as a way for anyone to express their feelings by decorating a blank T-shirt, and to raise awareness for sexual assault.

“People weren’t talking about this all, and now we’re giving people an outlet to talk about it,” said Fort Worth junior Caroline Goss, social chair of the It’s on Us Advisory Council. “This is a time for Baylor to show up and engage the issue and not hide it and pretend like it doesn’t happen here.”

The Title IX Office continues to work to increase awareness of its resources on campus. In cooperation with the It’s on Us Advisory Council, the Title IX Office works to make sure students understand what is available to them and the rights they have.

“TFor awareness to Title IX awareness has increased on campus in the last three years at Baylor,” Fort Worth junior Alex Ocran said. “I feel like these events are so important because they empower survivors and non-victims alike to stand together and support each other.”

Throughout the month of April, the It’s on Us Advisory Council will hold a variety of events to increase awareness of sexual assault on campus. For more information, go to baylor.edu/TITLEIX.

Sanctions placed on Dickerson campaign after code violations

RYLEE SEAVERS  Staff Writer

Katy senior Amy Dickerson, student body external vice president, was found guilty of violating Baylor’s electoral code on March 28 by posting two unapproved videos to her campaign Facebook page.

A sanction was placed on the Dickerson campaign by the electoral commission, requiring her to suspend all campaign social media from March 28 until April 1, according to the official opinion of the count. TheDickerson campaign appealed to the student court on the grounds that the electoral commission’s appeal was not filed in a timely manner, according to the campaign’s appeal. The electoral code states that “All campaign materials must be approved by the electoral commission and by the department of student activities prior to distribution,” but says campaign web pages must be approved, however “individual posts are not subject to approval, provided the posts do not violate Baylor branding or the code of ethics.”

The Dickerson campaign also cited a previous case heard by the student court regarding freedom of expression as part of the appeal. It’s on Us.

“Was it the campaign’s opinion that once we had our freedom of expression, that we were no longer required to get those individual things we were posting approved?” Riches asked.

The student court did not accept this appeal.

Second annual Clothesline Project raises awareness for sexual assault

EXPRESS YOURSELF: The Clothesline Project was started in 1990 on Cape Cod, Mass., to address the issue of abuse against women, according to the National Clothesline Project Network. The project was started as a way for anyone to express their feelings by decorating a blank T-shirt, and to raise awareness for sexual assault. The project started as a way for anyone to express their feelings by decorating a blank T-shirt. The shirts are to be on a clothesline so that they are seen by others in an effort to spark a conversation about the experiences and stories of survivors.

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COLUMN

Pay attention to the growth of eSports

BEN ERETT

Baylor Lariat

When I was younger, I used to listen to podcasts. They were a great escape and would often keep me occupied during the long drives I would have to take every day. I enjoyed hearing about different topics, from history to entertainment. However, I never gave much thought to the growth of eSports until recently.

Recently, I read an article about the growth of eSports, which is the rapidly growing world of electronic sports. eSports is a form of competition that involves individuals playing video games against each other. It has gained popularity in recent years and is now considered a legitimate sport by many.

One of the reasons for this growth is the increase in media coverage. In the past, eSports was a niche sport with a small audience. However, in recent years, media companies have recognized the potential of eSports and have started investing in it. As a result, there has been an increase in the number of tournaments and games being played.

Another reason for the growth of eSports is the increase in audience. More people are becoming interested in the sport and are tuning in to watch the games. This has led to an increase in the number of fans and the amount of money being invested in the sport.

As the growth of eSports continues, it is important to keep an eye on the sport and its potential impact on society. While it may be a niche sport for now, it has the potential to become a mainstream sport in the future. It is important to watch how it evolves and how it continues to grow.

In conclusion, the growth of eSports is a fascinating phenomenon that is worth paying attention to. As more people become interested in the sport, it is likely that we will see further growth and expansion. It will be interesting to see how it continues to evolve in the future.

COLUMN

Podcasts are changing entertainment

AMANDA HARGRET-GRANATO

Baylor Lariat

Every day, I wake around campus laughing at voices only I can hear. If there’s a downside to podcasts, it’s the inevitable moment that you make eye contact with a stranger as they roll their eyes and/or laugh at the same thing you’re hearing from your earbud. Podcasts are no more valuable than any morning show you’ve ever tuned into, but they are so much more valuable than any morning show you’ve ever tuned into.

Podcasts have seen a significant rise in popularity over the past year. Many people turn to podcasts as a way to stay informed on current events or to simply hear a new perspective. Whether you’re interested in politics, science, or entertainment, there is a podcast for you.

In my five years of podcasting, I have listened to a vast array of podcasts. From comedy to true crime, there is a podcast for everyone. Honestly, it’s the only medium that truly suits my interests.

Podcasters have a unique ability to connect with their audience. They create a safe space for their listeners to feel understood and appreciated. In a world where it feels like no one understands, podcasts provide a refuge for anyone looking to hear from someone who “get’s it.”

As I sit here listening to a podcast, I often forget about the world around me. It’s a feeling I can’t put into words, but it’s a feeling I love. Podcasts have become a part of my daily routine, and I don’t see that changing anytime soon.

If you haven’t tried podcasts yet, I highly recommend giving them a chance. You never know, you might just find your new favorite hobby.
Autism Month shows Waco community bond

MEGAN RULE

April kicks off Autism Awareness Month around the world, but in Waco, it is a month that shows how strong the community bond is as many local businesses and individuals show their support for the Heart of Texas Autism Network.

“We work a lot with different restaurants to help them learn to become more friendly and autism friendly,” Stacy Rodriguez, president for Heart of Texas Autism Network, said. “We are teaching the community at a whole to be able to tolerate and accept people of special needs, especially autism.”

This past weekend, the city lit up the Waco Suspension Bridge blue along with many other cities across the country for “Light it up Blue” on April 2, World Autism Day. Other iconic landmarks and buildings were lit blue to show support for those with autism and increase understanding of autism, according to the Autism Speaks website.

On Saturday morning, the Heart of Texas Autism Network 5K Run and Fun Walk will take place at Brazos Park East, put on by Heart of Texas Autism Network in conjunction with the Waco Striders. The run will start at 9 a.m., and the walk will start at 10 a.m. The walk will feature over 50 vendors, many activities and games, music and a live DJ, Rodriguez said. Various sponsors will be giving away prizes for kids and families.

Besides this fundraiser, donations can be made throughout the year to the Heart of Texas Autism Network. Registration can be done on the website until the day of the event. Funds will be used to train and educate teachers and “empower people is our goal. We are spreading knowledge and educating the community,” Rodriguez said.

“Do not do anything out of it. I don’t have a child with special needs,” Rodriguez said. “Just for me, I enjoy feeling like I am empowering. That’s what fulfills me.”

To Intervene

May 4, 2017

“Light it up Blue” is gaining momentum throughout the country for the benefit of those with autism. “We are all volunteers,” Rodgriguez said. “It’s a way to get involved and show our support.”

Beginning in 2007, Autism Speaks was the first organization to have the city of Waco light up the Suspension Bridge blue on World Autism Day, April 2. On Saturday morning, the Heart of Texas Autism Network will host a 5K Run at 9 a.m. and a Fun Walk at 10 a.m. at Brazos Park East.

April kicks off Autism Awareness Month across the country, and Waco is among the many communities to show their support in many ways including lighting up the Waco Suspension Bridge in blue on World Autism Day, April 2. On Saturday morning, the Heart of Texas Autism Network 5K Run and Fun Walk will take place at Brazos Park East, put on by Heart of Texas Autism Network in conjunction with the Waco Striders. The run will start at 9 a.m., and the walk will start at 10 a.m. The walk will feature over 50 vendors, many activities and games, music and a live DJ, Rodriguez said. Various sponsors will be giving away prizes for kids and families.

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SARAH EL DEEB AND ZEINA KARAM

BEIRUT — A chemical weapons attack on an opposition-held town in northern Syria killed dozens of people on Tuesday, causing a fresh outcry for a global response to the Assad regime's brutal assault that left hundreds dead and wounded and underscored the need for a political solution.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 54 people died, including 11 children, in the early morning attack in the town of Khan Sheikhoun, which witnesses said was carried out by Sukhoi jets operated by the Russian and Syrian governments. Videos from the scene showed lifeless bodies. Haunting images of lifeless children, victims of the attack, were beamed around the world and then did nothing.

The U.S. administration under President Donald Trump, who denounced it as a “brutal act” that “cannot be ignored,” added the intervention to its list of imperatives on the day of a major international conference in Brussels on the future of Syria and the region.

In a statement, Trump also HDMI: former President Barack Obama for “weakness” in failing to respond aggressively after the 2013 attack.

“Their actions are a testament to the weakness of our predecessors and the weakness and vacillation of our predecessors,” Trump said. “President Obama in 2012 he would have been a ‘brutal act’ against the use of chemical weapons and then did nothing.” The United States stands with our allies across the globe to condemn this heinous act.

April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

For information about upcoming events, visit baylor.edu/titleix

#SAAM

#ItsOnUsBU

To Prevent To Intervene To Care To Report it!

baylor.edu/titleix/report

(254) 710-8454

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 The Baylor Lariat 3
Students celebrated the annual Diadeloso with a number of on-campus activities, including goat yoga and live performances. The day was hosted by Baylor Chamber of Commerce.

Students enjoy the performance by Ansolo on Fountain Mall. Ansolo is the stage name of singer, actor and DJ Ansel Elgort. The concert was the closing act of Diadeloso.

Jared Atkinson, sophomore wide receiver, runs out to catch the ball during the student appreciation practice, an annual chance for the public to view and meet the Baylor football team.

Keaau, Hawaii, freshman Daizha Gomes and Hilo, Hawaii, freshman Julius Manglona enjoy Dia Del Rio hosted by the Baylor Marina the day before Diadeloso. They took out a two-man kayak on the Brazos River.

Hypnotist Jonathan Hager hypnotizes Baylor students, making them up to sleep on stage during Diadeloso on Fountain Mall.

Six-week-old Albury chews on his leash on the Rosenbalm Fountain following a splash in the fountain water. He was accompanied by his owner and other dogs taking a dip.

Students lined up to play archery tag on Fountain Mall. Those who competed received a free T-shirt.

Students celebrated the annual Diadeloso with a number of on-campus activities, including goat yoga and live performances. The day was hosted by Baylor Chamber of Commerce.

Dayday Wynn | Lariat Photographer

Waco senior Seth Findley, lead singer of Honest Men, performs for the students gathered on Fountain Mall during the Noon Meal.

Pflugerville freshman Urielle Ndri shoots a water gun at a cup, racing her neighbor to get the cup across the line. This was one of many games set up along Fountain Mall.

Dining hall staff passes out food to those in line as part of the traditional Noon Meal.
Suspect arrested after seven wounded at Lubbock motel

LUBBOCK – Police say a 23-year-old man armed Tuesday afternoon in their search of seven people wounded while on the wallet of a West Texas motel.

Lubbock police say Adriana Vicente Castillo (ka-

“Taste the beef” was heinously sliced Tuesday evening into the Lubbock County jail on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Bond is set at $500,000. Jail records list no attorney for him.

Investigations say a man was near a nearby bar and restaurant late Monday night when he left, then began arguing with and began shooting at the victim standing on a second-story balcony of the Villa Motel in Lubbock.

A Lubbock police statement says all of the victims suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Border agency fields pitches for Trump’s wall

SAN DIEGO – One bidder wants to cover Donald Trump’s border wall with solar panels, another is building a wall large enough for a deck that would offer visitors scenic views of the desert.

In the competition to build the wall, traditional bids are expected to come with more than $15 billion.

As Trump’s deadline for bids passed, U.S. Customs and Border Protection declined to identify bidders or say how many there were, which is standard practice in government contracting.

The federal government expects to receive around 130 bids, which will be considered for contracts.

Designs must be able to repel jockeys and drug traffickers for at least an hour and can aesthetically blend in with the surrounding landscape.

Trump’s multibillion-dollar plan promises potentially big profits but also risks inviting a backlash from people who oppose the project.

Immigration arrests at Mexican border plummet

WASHINGTON – Arrests of people trying to sneak into the United States across the Mexican border plummeted in March to the lowest monthly figure in more than 17 years, the head of the Department of Homeland Security reported.

That’s a stark sign that fewer immigrants are trying to make the trek into the United States.

Secretary John Kelly said the steep decline in arrests is “no accident” and credited President Donald Trump’s efforts to illegal immigration.

Kelly reported the figures in written testimony submitted to a Senate committee ahead of an appearance Wednesday. The Associated Press obtained a copy of his testimony.

Compiled from Associated Press reports

Narnia series may affect children positively, guest professor says

CLAY SPRAGUE

Many may remember reading, hearing or watching any number of C.S. Lewis’ Classics such as “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” or “The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.” These tales have an undeniable cultural impact since they were written, but Dr. Mark Pike thinks that the benefits children can gain from these stories goes well beyond the realm of the imaginative.

Pike is a professor of education at the University of Leeds in the U.K., where he has served as the head of the department of education there since 2014. He is one of the beneficiaries of these stories, he says.

“Being able to quickly view reported events and respond in real time is critical,” Rosebure said. “We have a very aggressive security platform, and these cameras are designed to blend into their surroundings.”

Some cameras can be seen on lamp posts along the Bear Trail and on streetlights along Dutton Avenue.

“Bear Trail, Dutton Avenue and the main campus areas, according to the department of public safety’s Rosebure said the cameras are designed to blend into their surroundings.”

“We have a very aggressive security platform,” Rosebure said. “We have a very aggressive security platform, and these cameras are designed to blend into their surroundings.”

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“Our campus is already extremely safe, and these cameras only add to the campus’s safety,” Rosebure said. “We have a very aggressive security platform, and these cameras only add to the campus’s safety.”

“We have a very aggressive security platform, and these cameras only add to the campus’s safety.”

“For us to be able to view it is crucial to the child’s day of the region in order to test the effectiveness of our platform.”

“Being able to quickly view reported events and respond in real time is critical,” Rosebure said. “We have a very aggressive security platform, and these cameras are designed to blend into their surroundings.”

“In addition to these responsibilities, Pike is also the director of the Narnian Virtues Character Education research project, which he helped form. This research project is designed to study the effects that the stories have on children from the ages of 11 to 13.

“I believe that the presentation by Pike and his colleagues highlighted a number of the most important Narnian virtues for the research project to focus on. Along with these virtues, Pike and company provide schools with two pages, related to each of the virtues that the children will study as a part of the curriculum. These virtues, which include wisdom, love, humility, courage, self-control and justice, will be tested to determine kind of the impact the stories have on the children.”

“These methods help both as an educational tool and for research,” Pike said. “We are learning about the various Narnian Virtues through this research.”

“We can learn how to better use character education moving forward.”

To more precisely focus the study, Pike and his colleagues highlighted a number of the most important Narnian virtues for the research project to focus on. Along with these virtues, Pike and company provide schools with two pages, related to each of the virtues that the children will study as a part of the curriculum. These virtues, which include wisdom, love, humility, courage, self-control and justice, will be tested to determine kind of the impact the stories have on the children.

“As we have seen here in certainties,” Pike said. “We have people involved from all over the world, the U.K., the Netherlands, Canada. We are certainly hoping to add Texas to that list.”

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Photographer
Marketing Manager

If interested please visit baylorlariat.com/employment/
Today's Puzzles

Across

1. Chicken-in (out) 6. J. Royce Pfautch
2. Easy on (in) 7. Needlepoint
3. Launch 8. Shade
4. Camerabase (night) 9. Tap
5. Take a trip on 10. As a matter of course

Down

1. 2018 2. Schylling
2. Ketchikan 3. A Ukelele
3. 775 4. Chinese spacecraft, with "the"
4. 32nd 5. "The Martian" genre
5. 38th 6. "The Martian" genre
20. "The Martian" genre

For today's puzzle results, please go to BaylorLariat.com

Yoga achieves zen with farm animals

KOSSYD WOYTEK

Instead of following along with the yoga instructor, many participants of goat yoga at Diadeloso on Saturday chose to take a break from that pose to cuddle with baby goats. The event consisted of four sessions of 100 people each, and each participant received a goat yoga tank top as part of the $10 entry fee.

According to Inessa, Pan-

American Brian Waryck, the Baylor Chamber of Commerce originally planned to have two sessions of goat yoga. When online registration filled up in a day, the organization decided to open up two more times to accommodate the high demand.

Waryck served as the animal coordinator for Diadeloso this year. As soon as Chamber began discussing the idea of goat yoga, he reached out to For Pet Parking. Two-to-six pets could be brought in to participate. Although goat yoga was a new idea to the petting zoo, they agreed to allow Chamber to use around 50 goats for the event.

“I just explained them and said, ‘How many goats do you have and can we use all of them?’” Waryck said. According to Waryck, the idea of the unusual combination came from a woman in Oregon named Lauren Miele. According to her website, goat yoga is “really about disconnecting with day to day stress, reclaiming self-acceptance and finding on positivness and happy vibes.”

Waryck said he believes that because goats are outgoing, helpful and have an outgoing attitude, they are the perfect animals to be paired with yoga. Belton yoga instructor Logan Waryck said he didn’t know what to expect before participating in goat yoga, but he loved the experience more than he originally anticipated.

“The goats are kind of just there for comedic relief,” Waryck said. “It’s hilarious just having goats walking around while you’re doing yoga.”

Zwerneman said he first heard about the event from his friends. He thought the idea was so strange, he registered just to see what it was like. Dawn Owen, owner of The Yogi Bar, taught the last two sessions of goat yoga. Before Chamber asked her to be a goat yoga instructor for Diadeloso, she had never heard of the concept. She said that participants gradually became more involved in playing with the goats than doing yoga. “At first, some people were sticking with me for yoga and playing with the goats,” Owens said. “By the second session, people just wanted to play with the goats.”

Diadeloso brings color, cadence, creatures

KAITLYN DEHAVEN

Baylor students enjoyed a day off Sunday petting exotic animals, getting dazed while running and dancing the night away with guest artist Ansolo.

The day began with students looking to get a head start on their summer plans by running in community while simultaneously getting over the colors of the rainbow in the Diadeloso Fun Run. At 9 a.m., Tuesday, students flooded the McLane Stadium concourse for a great workout and to become a muse in the drama, color and bubbles. The race cost $10 for each participant, and each runner got a free T-shirt with their registration.

Collinville freshman Emily Edwards said she enjoyed running the Fun Run because it was a good way to spend time with her friends and in the process, she was able to fulfill her dream of running in a color run. “My favorite part about running the Fun Run was having the color thrown at us,” Edwards said. “I have always wanted to do a color run, and finally, I got the chance.” Later in the day, there was an exotic animal petting zoo available for students—offering animals like a fire, rita, monkey and a cancel Miele. According to her website, goat yoga is “really about disconnecting from day to day stress, reclaiming self-acceptance and finding on positivness and happy vibes.”

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Overall, the feedback from Diadeloso has shown that it was a well-needed break and a good way to prepare for the final stretch of the semester.

Nobleville freshman Raquel Buenrostro said she enjoyed the day hanging out with her friends. “My day has experience has been amazing,” Buenrostro said. “I really liked to be here and know that everyone is here just to give me this day. Love Baylor.”

For today’s puzzle results, please go to BaylorLariat.com

This week in Waco:

>> Today

6:30 p.m.—Graduate Recital. Free admission. Roxy Grove Hall.
7:30 p.m.—Pride & Prejudice. $5-$20. Waco Civic Theatre.
7:30 p.m.—Jazz Ambassadors (U.S. Army Big Band). Free admission. Jones Concert Hall.

>> Thursday

11 a.m.-3 p.m.—Waco in World War I Exhibit. Free admission. Fort House Historic Home. 503 S. 4th St.
5:30 p.m.—Early Music Ensembles. Free admission. Armstrong Brown Library.
6:8 p.m.—Fuzzy Friends Spaghetti Night. $25. Backyard Bar, Stage & Grill.
7:59 p.m.—Morgan Wilson performs. Dichtomy Coffee & Spirits.
8:10 p.m.—8-30 “Suzi Boss” performs. Waco Hippodrome.
7:10 p.m.—The Stars Over Texas Jamboree. $10-$22. 2801 W. Waco Drive.
7:10 p.m.—Husser Brothers perform. La Fiesta, 3815 Franklin Ave.
7:30 p.m.—Pride & Prejudice. $5-$20. Waco Civic Theatre.
8:11 p.m.—Leiland performs. $20-$35. Common Grounds.

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DALLAS — Tony Romo is retiring from the Dallas Cowboys to replace another former quarterback in Phil Simms as lead analyst for CBS. The network announced Tuesday that Romo will be paired with Jim Nantz on Thursday night and Sunday games next season.

The departure of the all-time passing leader has been expected since November, when Romo conceded the job after missing 10 weeks with a back injury. The Cowboys were in the middle of a franchise-record 11-game winning streak when Romo returned.

"Our vision was to have a club that was founded in giving back, whether to Waco or to the paintball community or whoever a big club grows back, and we get to send people to compete with," Cantrell said.

"We can grow teams of real paintball players, people who love the sport and love people in the sport. That was the goal and still is, and we are still slowly growing towards that."

The team has been built up slowly over the course of the last two years. Cantrell spent much of his time on the recruitment trail, gauging interest from anyone who was willing to listen. He sat in meetings, dealt with paperwork, re-established a club sponsor (something he will have to do again once the academic semester is over as the current sponsor is set to leave Baylor) and continues to try to get funding from Baylor.

Tony Romo retires from NFL, now works at CBS

SCHUYLER DIXON

Tony Romo is retiring from the Dallas Cowboys to replace another former quarterback in Phil Simms as lead analyst for CBS. The network announced Tuesday that Romo will be paired with Jim Nantz on Thursday night and Sunday games next season. The former 10-year starter considered multiple network offers while also deciding whether to keep playing after losing the Dallas job to rookie Dak Prescott last season.

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Cantrell has managed to recruit five other guys to join the paintball club. Three of those players have lots of experience on the paintball field, but two of them are new to the sport. One of those guys was Damon Collins, sophomore business major Murphy, who had been in search of getting his paintball gun ready for NCPA competition.

“When it came time for me to lease for college, I had been playing paintball for three and half years and was looking to play in the NCPA,” Murphy said. “I got in touch with the president (Cantrell), and when I showed up in August I found that I was only the second player on the team.”

Despite the lack of experience and presence, when given the opportunity to compete against some of the best teams in the nation, Baylor not only refused to back down, the team embraced the challenge.

“We were going to wait for another season and wait until next year, and we heard that A&M was there. We have to go to beat them and go sheet hands,” Cantrell said. “What better motivation than to play against pros, so we went out there and had a good time.”

That opportunity came in a regional tournament played at the Fun on the Run Paintball Park in Fort Worth where Baylor played the No. 1 ranked Texas A&M team, No. 2 University of North Texas and No. 7 Texas. Without question, Baylor entered the competition, the other teams showed up in marching orders sponsored vehicles and with stacks of professional experience for the Houston that week. Big time, big time, A&M brought one line of players, which consists of five and one reserve. Texas A&M and UNT put four while Texas brought three. A&M shot 13 cases of paint that consists of roughly 5,000 paintballs each, Baylor shot 11. The other participants had their entry fee of $500 paid on their behalf. Baylor’s participants paid out of pocket.

Lacing in reserves and experience, the odds were against the Baylor team. Not only did Baylor walk away with a second-place finish, it walked away with respect from its opponents and the beginning of what will hopefully be meaningful relationships.

“The biggest takeaway was the relationships we made. It was great to take second, but the coolest part was showing up, not knowing a single soul there, stepping onto the field into quarterfinals against UNT. No one had UNT and A&M time for shooting for us,” Cantrell said. “We really developed relationships with other teams and the local field, stepping onto the field for finals. It was an amazing experience, all those friends we made in one day rest for the unknown to knock off the No. 1 team in the country.”

One Texas A&M Aggie dad even offered to pay for Baylor’s dinner and gas to get home with respect for the hotel, competitive nature of Baylor Paintball. Murphy said that experience showed the team’s willingness to fight for one another on the paintball field, something that would certainly bring them closer together.

“I get to see our team come together as brothers and begin fighting for each other. That and I come together as technicians, we came away with a finish second only to the current top dog from down in College Station,” Murphy said. “We fell for home with a bible more experience and a lot more respect than we had entered with. Overall, it was a blessing to be able to be a part of the team going through.”

In tournament-style paintball, the game is played on a field 100 feet long by 150 feet wide. Each team presents five players who line up two on the front line, two in the middle and one in the back as the watchman for the team. The goal is to eliminate all the opposing players and reach the banner or flag or simply get to be the banner first. Teams play best of three to claim the medals.

In the preliminary rounds, Baylor finished 2-2 in matches before advancing to the quarterfinal with UNT. Baylor knocked off UNT 2-0 and A&M No. 2 No. 2 in the semifinal match before ultimately falling to A&M No. 1 line that has not lost in two years in the final.

Despite coming up short in the final, Cantrell has begun to build something worth taking notice of, and the tournament serves as a building block for things to come for Baylor Paintball.

“Even after being kicked out, for them to just get up, smile, get off the field and take seconds place, it was amazing,” Cantrell said. “It was a proud moment as the president of the organization. It was an incredible experience.”

Baylor Paintball continues to search for more players to join the club. They practice every Tuesday and Thursday 7:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday at Thunder at 2 p.m., 4 p.m. service at Highland Baptist Church.