Season recap: pg. 2

From the Mustangs to the Mountaineers, the Bears have faced challenges offensively and defensively.

Photo highlights: pg. 3

Check out these epic moments from the 2016 football season.

Player spotlight: pg. 4

Hard work has paid off for several standout players this year.

Faces from the sidelines: pg. 5

The football team has drawn from the support of the marching band, cheerleaders, fans and coaches.

re•demp•tion
Giving a new definition to Baylor football
Tale of two seasons

NATHAN KEIL
Sports Editor

The last no-hitter for Baylor football may be the fact that it hasn’t been one since
2013.

By now, the Baylor story is well known across the country. Former head
football coach Art Briles was fired May 26. Athletic director Ian McCaw was
surprised—then resigned. President Ken Starr was fired. All of these events
transpired as a result of a Title IX investigation by the Philadelphia-based law firm
Pepper Hamilton which revealed Briles was never in the line of handling sexual
assault issues.

Baylor began its January to restore the health of the program and campus
community. It started by bringing in Mack Blundell as the new athletic
director. They also hired former Wake Forest head coach Jim Grobe
to serve as acting head coach for the 2016 season, but kept the rest of
Briles coaching staff intact. Dr. Daniel Gutad of George W. Brum
Secretary was named interim president for the second time in his career at Baylor.

The Bears also had to deal with suspensions to junior safety
Christian矢 and sophomore wide
receiver Isaiah Zamora. Freshmen quarterback Seth Stidham transferred out, and
sophomore running back Johnny Jefferson stepped away from the team as well.

Grobe seemingly walked into a minefield—having to manage a way through
a series of obstacles and decisions that he had no say in. He was brought in to
restore the team’s reputation in the community. It started by bringing in
Dr. Scott and the bearing of a few affairs so many in the collection
displays that come from the bear himself, a few kids in overweighting,
what Grobe said when he was introduced as acting head coach. I want
everybody to know that we have great kids. I’m sure I’ll hear a few kids that
once in a while, I’ve got to dust o

everybody to know that we have great
techniques so many people.

Each week Grobe begins to see bits of
counter story back into its
brutal. First, Briles was in attendance for the matchup with Rice. Next, the Rice band performed
one of their patented halftime shows that brought the spotlight back on
the sexual assault changes at Baylor.

But the second half of the season turned out to be a whirlwind for the Bears.
It began on Oct. 29, when the Bears found themselves in a must-win situation.
That day, the Bears fell to the Sooners, 45-24 in Amarillo. The Bears
followed Stidham and Je


RISING ABOVE
Senior safety Dylan Storlie jumps up in the air to celebrate with his teammates after he grabs a pick off Southern Methodist University’s place kicker Ben Holmes on Sept. 10 at McLane Stadium. The Baylor Bears won that game, 40-13.

Senior safety Orion Stewart jumps up in the air to celebrate with his teammates after he grabs a pick off SMU’s quarterback Ben Holmes. The Bears won that game, 40-13.
Bowl Issue

Tumbles and Touchdowns

Senior running back Shock Linwood tackles a Kansas State University player on Nov. 19 at McLane Stadium. The Bears lost 42-21.

Sophomore wide receiver Ishmael Zamora falls with the ball after an attempted tackle by a Texas Tech University player on Nov. 25 in Arlington. The Bears lost 54-35.

Tumbles and Touchdowns

Senior quarterback Seth Russell runs past University of Kansas defenders during the homecoming game on Oct. 15 at McLane Stadium. The Bears won 49-7.

Freshman cornerback Jordan Tolbert dives with the ball in this season’s opening game against Northwestern State on Sept. 2 in McLane Stadium. The Bears triumphed over the Demons 55-7.

Senior running back Shock Linwood tackles a Kansas State University player on Nov. 19 at McLane Stadium. The Bears lost 42-21.

Sophomore wide receiver Ishmael Zamora falls with the ball after an attempted tackle by a Texas Tech University player on Nov. 25 in Arlington. The Bears lost 54-35.

Freshman wide receiver Blake Lynch losses the ball in a game against Southern Methodist University on Sept. 10 in McLane Stadium. The Bears won 40-13.

Senior wide receiver Orion Stewart and junior safety Chance Woullard bump during the game against Texas Christian University on Nov. 5 at McLane Stadium. The Bears lost 62-22.

Senior safety Orion Stewart runs onto the field before the season opener against Northwestern State at McLane Stadium on Sept. 2. The Bears won 55-7.

Senior cornerback Tion Wright runs onto the field before the game against Kansas State University on Nov. 19 at McLane Stadium. Baylor lost 42-21.

Sophomore wide receiver Ishmael Zamora falls with the ball after an attempted tackle by a Texas Tech University player on Nov. 25 in Arlington. The Bears lost 54-35.

Senior safety Orion Stewart runs onto the field before the game against Kansas State University on Nov. 19 at McLane Stadium. Baylor lost 42-21.

Sophomore wide receiver Ishmael Zamora falls with the ball after an attempted tackle by a Texas Tech University player on Nov. 25 in Arlington. The Bears lost 54-35.
For freshman quarterback Zach Smith, this will be the first time he has ever played in a bowl game. In Baylor’s seventh-straight bowl game, the team will take on Boise State in the Mt. Express Bowl at 9:30 p.m. Central Time on Dec. 27 at the Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego. The game will be televised on ESPN.

Smith has had a unique start to his college career, coming in as a walk-on. Before Baylor, last season, quarterback Seth Russell for the season when he fractured his ankle against Oklahoma University on Nov. 12 at 4:24 p.m. A starter a first time, Russell was having thrown six interceptions, Smith recorded eight touchdowns with his longest pass being a 60-yard pass against West Virginia on Saturday.

However, in Smith’s three starts at Baylor, he has 879 passing yards on 72 attempts, with a completion percentage of 58.3. Despite having thrown six interceptions, Smith recorded eight touchdowns with his longest pass being a 60-yard pass against West Virginia on Saturday.

Baylor Bears head football coach Jim Grobe raved earlier in the season about Smith when he came into the game against Oklahoma after Russell was taken out on a cut after fumbling the ball.

"When it was his turn to go, he didn't panic. He was calm but focused, and I finally I just...I was so happy. "

Grobe was just eyeballing me the whole time, " said Grobe, "so I just ran inside. I was so happy."

"I would say, spiritually, I've grown there more than anything else," Edmiston said. "My best friends are here at Baylor. The best friends I've ever had in my life are here at Baylor. I'm going to miss that to a way more than I could've imagined... my education, I'm definitely smarter now than I was when I graduated high school. I know tough degrees, it's something hard but rewarding as well. It's really not words to describe how much I've grown, but I'm thankful for it."

"Just a little over a week later, another player got his start at Baylor as a preferred walk-on to play for the Baylor Bears. During the 2016 season, the Baylor football team has gone through its share of controversy, from the suspension of former head coach Art Briles and issues with Title IX to losing six members of the coaching staff. But even through the strife, there is a number of good things that have come from this year.

Three, Baylor football players, each with their own unique story, became scholarship recipients. Redshirt junior wide receiver Cole Edmiston got his start at Baylor as a preferred walk-on after opting out of scholarships to two smaller colleges. Now a senior in the classroom, after four years of hard work on and off the field, Edmiston is looking to put on scholarship.

On Aug. 30, after the Bears’ practice, acting head coach Kingsbury pulled Edmiston aside to give him the news.

"We need to go out and practice," said Kingsbury. "We need to go out and practice.

"I kind of gave him a weird and confused look, and that's when he smiled and said, "The coaching staff has decided..."

Edmiston then got a little bit nervous, I was wondering what was going on. So finally I just went over to him and shook his hand, and he asked me how to pronounce my last name. He said that they decided to put me on full scholarship, and I mean there's really nothing, nothing comparable to that feeling."

"It was long anticipated, and I felt like it was going to happen sooner, I was just waiting for the day for them to finally pull the trigger," Edmiston said. "I remember Coach Grobe telling me to go optimistic and find Keith because all the coaches voted to put me on scholarship. I ran to the locker room, got my phone and called my mom and dad. My mom, she's a crier, so she was crying... and I was happy. It was great."

"We are going to go out there in the bowl game and really play hard," Smith said.

"I'm so happy. I gave him a huge hug, and then I just ran inside. I was so happy!"
Faces from the Sidelines

A Baylor cheerleader waves to the crowd during the Oct. 15 game against the University of Kansas. The Bears won 49-7.

Baylor cheerleaders perform at the Baylor football game against the University of Kansas Jayhawks on Oct. 15 at McLane Stadium. The Bears won 49-7.

Baylor cheerleaders help keep the crowd engaged during the Baylor versus Southern Methodist University game on Sept. 16.

Baylor cheerleaders perform at the Baylor football game against the University of Kansas Jayhawks. The Bears won 49-7.

Baylor cheerleaders perform at the Baylor versus Southern Methodist University game on Sept. 10. Students take selfies during the Baylor versus Northwestern State game on Sept. 2 at McLane Stadium. The Bears won both games.

Baylor students show up to cheer on their Bears football team at the Baylor versus Texas Christian University game on Nov. 5 at McLane Stadium. The Bears lost to the Horned Frogs, their longtime rivals, 66-22.

Baylor cheerleaders help keep the crowd engaged during the Baylor versus Southern Methodist University game on Sept. 10.

Interim head coach Jim Grobe speaks at Baylor’s annual bonfire rally on Oct. 14 on Fountain Mall. The bonfire is held each year before the Bears’ homecoming football game.

Defensive coordinator Phil Bennett yells at a player during the Sept. 2 game against Southern Methodist University on Sept. 2.

The Baylor University Golden Wave Band plays during the Oct. 15 homecoming game against the University of Kansas Jayhawks at McLane Stadium. The Bears won 49-7.

A member of the Baylor Lariat runs onto the field holding a flag at Baylor’s homecoming game against the University of Kansas on Oct. 25 at McLane Stadium.

Bruiser the Bear, Baylor’s mascot, high-fives a young Baylor fan during the Nov. 19 football game against the Kansas State University Wildcats. The Bears lost 42-21.

The Baylor University Golden Wave Band plays during the Oct. 15 homecoming game against the University of Kansas Jayhawks at McLane Stadium. The Bears won 49-7.

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### Bears vs. Broncos

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