

‘Thor: Ragnarok’ strikes viewers with action, laughs, new characters

BAILEY BRAMMER
Editor-in-Chief

As someone who enjoys a good superhero movie but doesn't religiously follow the Marvel Cinematic Universe's phases and characters, I was a bit worried I wouldn't be able to follow the third installment in the 'Thor' series, 'Thor: Ragnarok.' I was pleasantly surprised, however, to discover that my basic understanding of the Avengers was more than enough to thoroughly enjoy the storyline and humor of Marvel's newest release.

The movie begins with Thor, the god of thunder (Chris Hemsworth), trapped by a fire demon Surtur, who claims he is going to start "Ragnarok," the prophesied death and destruction of Asgard and its people. Thor defeats the monster in true, superhero-style with his all-powerful hammer, and returns home to Asgard where he finds his supposed-to-be dead brother, Loki (Tom Hiddleston), posing as his father, Odin.

The reluctantly reunited brothers seek out their real father, but not before running into a familiar face on Earth — Dr. Stephen Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch). Upon finding Odin, their father reveals that they have an older sister, Hela (Cate Blanchett), who is not only the Goddess of Death, but is also looking to claim the throne of Asgard as her own and destroy anyone who stands in her way.

The brothers' first encounter with their long-lost sibling lands them both on a planet of lost things and misfits known as Sakaar, which is run by the Grandmaster (Jeff Goldblum). Thor is slated to compete against the Grandmaster's champion in a gladiator-like challenge in order to escape the planet and return to save Asgard. The champion, to Thor's delight, happens to be the Incredible Hulk (Mark Ruffalo). The two Avengers, along with Loki and a former Valkyrie also from Asgard (Tessa Thompson) team up to attempt to take



down Hela and restore peace to the Nine Realms.

Although Hela's character contains a certain dark and powerful beauty, the villain lacks any real connection to the audience through her past — she has no reason for her bloodlust, other than that her father banished her for being too ambitious. Thompson's portrayal of Valkyrie, however, offers a relatable, comedic and dynamic female character that easily replaces Thor's previous love interest, Jane Foster (Natalie Portman).

Thor himself undergoes a few changes in both physical appearance and costume in

this latest release, including a haircut and the loss of his precious hammer. These adjustments, however, lead the God of Thunder to recognize his true power in the face of his murderous sister. The transformations also give Thor a more human feel, which is something previous Thor and Avenger movies have been slightly lacking in.

The actors offer a break from the fighting with witty remarks and banter, particularly between Thor and Valkyrie. Their exchanges are awkward but adorable, and the Norse god's embarrassment with a new crush again adds

to his humanity and relatable-ness.

The music often mirrors the action, with hardcore rock-and-roll punctuating intense fight scenes and battles. Despite the film's PG-13 rating, there was hardly any blood or gore, so the movie would most likely be fine for mature pre-teens.

Overall, the fast-paced development of the movie lends itself to be enjoyed by anyone, regardless of whether you've grown up reading Marvel comics or just happen to think that Hemsworth and Hiddleston are incredibly dreamy.

What to do in Waco this weekend:

>> Today

11 a.m. — Austin Avenue opens up its streets, starting on 13th Street and ending at City Hall, to thousands of parade-goers for Waco's annual Veterans Day Parade. Honor veterans with warm smiles and giant waves.

7:30 p.m. — Americana artist Thomas Csorba will bring life and music to Pinewood Coffee Bar's outdoor stage. The tickets for the event, "An evening with Thomas Csorba," are \$10.

8 p.m. — Folk artist Tow'r's will be performing live at Common Grounds under their twinkling outdoor lights. Tickets for the Friday night show start at \$10.

>> Saturday, Nov. 11

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. — Waco Downtown Farmers Market brings locally grown food for locals and students to stuff their kitchens with. The event is located at Fifth Street and Washington Avenue.

4 - 7 p.m. — Student-run fashion blog The Buttoned Bears will be hosting a pop-up shop with local vendors at LL Sams Poolhouse at 2000 S. First Street. Vendors include Pokey-O's, Pinewood Coffee and live music from Baylor students.

8:30 p.m. — Americana and country artist Parker McCollum takes the stage at the Backyard Bar, Stage & Grill. Tickets begin at \$15.

9:30 p.m. — Brazos Theatre opens up their stage to their Open Mic Night and Talent Show. Cash prizes are available for those who use their talents to help create an interesting night.

>> Sunday, Nov. 12

7:30 p.m. — Truelove Bar welcomes professional comedians for their Stand Up Comedy night. A few of the comedians who will be performing include Diane Michelle and Mike Young. Entrance is free.

>> Ongoing

Nov. 4 - Nov. 22 — "Ekphrasis : An Exploration of the Mind Body Soul," the month-long display of artwork from Sixth to Eighth Street, will bring awareness to mental health challenges. The exhibit will be along Austin Avenue and Washington Avenue.

Nov. 7 - Nov. 12 — Baylor Theatre's new play, "This Random World," will be pulling open the curtains of Mabee Theater at Baylor until Nov. 12. Tickets start at \$20.

Waco Veterans' Day Parade

Time
11 a.m.

Date
Today

Place
Downtown Waco,
Austin Avenue

The Waco community will be celebrating veterans with floats, bands and large crowds.

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Today's Puzzles

Across

- 1 Radiated joy
- 7 "Hi and Lois" pooch
- 11 Fair grade
- 14 Smithy fixtures
- 15 Literary pen name
- 16 Half of a steep price?
- 17 Refused
- 18 Aggressive property seizure
- 20 Video game pioneer
- 21 Unit to plow
- 22 Church section near the altar
- 23 Red Square shrine
- 25 Suffix with church
- 26 Disdainful chorus
- 27 Golden Fleece ship
- 29 Campaign funding org.
- 32 Pet hair picker-upper
- 37 Cope with change
- 40 Long-jawed fish
- 41 Farm machinery giant
- 42 Green Hornet's great-uncle, with "The"
- 45 Hit hard
- 46 First-year law student
- 47 Word on some doors
- 50 Ship leader: Abbr.
- 52 Stretch between new moons
- 58 Away from port
- 59 Lots
- 60 "Gone With the Wind" family name
- 61 Sharp-sighted
- 63 '80s-'90s Mets pitcher nicknamed "Dr. K"
- 64 Stan of Marvel Comics
- 65 Only
- 66 Ancient Chinese divination text
- 67 Violinists' sect.
- 68 Binding vows
- 69 Summer wear

Down

- 1 ___ reader: grade school text
- 2 Related maternally
- 3 Birdlike
- 4 Central vein of a leaf
- 5 Weather-affecting phenomenon
- 6 Brit. military decoration
- 7 Big name in auto parts
- 8 Apprehension

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- 9 Place to get a Cab
- 10 Wander (about)
- 11 One sharing a ride
- 12 Rub off
- 13 Dying fire bit
- 19 Honkers on the ground
- 21 Punctuation in email addresses
- 24 Costa del ___
- 28 "The Twilight Zone" creator Serling
- 29 Buddy
- 30 Brouhaha
- 31 Kitchen gadget with a magnet
- 33 Pester
- 34 Rock-boring drill
- 35 Historical period
- 36 Dream letters

- 38 Binoculars brand
- 39 Otto minus cinque
- 43 Ameliorated
- 44 Play about robots
- 48 Kiss
- 49 Sounds of seasonal joy
- 50 Phones
- 51 Up to this moment
- 53 Unborn, after "in"
- 54 Points of connection
- 55 Apex antonym
- 56 Lott from Mississippi
- 57 Puts on a hook
- 62 Brit. recording giant
- 63 Enlistees, briefly

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



NEW SEASON, NEW FACES Freshman guard Alexis Morris looks to shoot a basket during a pre-season exhibition against Washburn University on Monday evening in the Ferrell Center. The No. 3 ranked Lady Bears crushed the visiting Ichabods 117-33, and Morris recorded 13 points. Baylee VerSteeg | Multimedia Journalist

Men to take on Central Arkansas in first game

BEN EVERETT
Sports Writer

No. 24 Baylor men's basketball opens the season at noon today at the Ferrell Center against the University of Central Arkansas.

The Bears yield a veteran team consisting of four juniors and four seniors and are looking to make it to a school-record fifth straight NCAA Tournament.

Head coach Scott Drew said the postseason experience from previous years will propel the Bears to success this season.

"Having four seniors is a good thing," Drew said. "Especially coming off of postseasons the last few years where they've had games and experiences to get them better. Hopefully that will put them in a position to lead us now like the seniors the last few years have done."

Despite having a surplus of veteran leadership, the Bears will still need to find a way to replace the departures of forward Johnathan Motley and guards Ishmail Wainwright and Al Freeman.

Motley, the 2017 Karl Malone Award winner for the nation's best power forward, led the Bears in scoring and rebounding with averages of 17.3 points per game and 9.9 rebounds per game during the 2016-17 season.

Senior center Jo Lual-Acuil Jr. said the toughest aspect of Motley's game to replace will be rebounding because many of the returning players are due for scoring



JUMP, JUMP, JUMP Junior guard Jake Lindsey looks for an open man in Baylor's exhibition game against Houston on Oct. 21 at the Ferrell Center. The Bears fell to the Cougars 81-78. Liesje Powers | Multimedia Editor

increases.

"The biggest thing is rebounding," Lual-Acuil, Jr. said. "As far as scoring goes, I think King [McClure] is going to make a big jump. Nuni [Omot] is going to take a jump up in production, TJ [Maston], Tristan [Clark], too."

With Lual-Acuil Jr. and senior point guard Manu Lecomte returning, the likely starters will include junior guards Jake Lindsey and King McClure and senior forward Nuni Omot.

Senior forward Terry Maston and freshman forward Tristan Clark add depth in the front court, but the Bears will be lacking guards this year.

Lindsey, Lecomte, McClure and freshman guard Tyson Jolly are the only guards listed on the roster, and Jolly is currently sidelined due to an undisclosed medical reason.

Sophomore guard Wendell "Chuck" Mitchell opted to transfer following the season

MEN'S >> Page 12

Lady Bears to square off with Lamar

ADAM GIBSON
Copy Editor

The No. 3 Lady Bears finished 2-0 in the preseason and show no signs of slowing down as they prepare to face Lamar University at 7 p.m. today at the Ferrell Center.

Both the team's defense and offense had a stellar outing against Washburn on Monday night, with the defense holding the Ichabods to just 33 points and offense lighting up the scoreboard by putting up 117 points.

Even though the Lady Bears won their first two exhibition games, head coach Kim Mulkey said there is still work to be done for her young team going into the regular season and playing a talented Lamar team.

"We're not polished, but the season is here and we play a Lamar team that is quick -- a Lamar team that is picked to win their league," Mulkey said. "They don't have the size that we have, but they are a very good basketball team."

The Cardinals went 22-8 overall last season. Junior guard Moe Kinard led the team in scoring with 15.3 points per game. Kinard started in all 30 games Lamar played, was named Southland Conference Newcomer of the Year and earned second-team All-Southland accolades. Having 15 players on the roster, seven being upperclassmen, Lamar will have more experience over the young Lady Bears.

With just 10 players on the roster, seven of which are underclassmen, there are going to have to be players that move around to play any position they need filled.

Senior forward Dekeiya Cohen is one of

WOMEN'S >> Page 12

Bear Pit ready to get rowdy for basketball season

BRANSON HARDCASTLE
Reporter

The Bear Pit Leadership Team, a student organization that helps hype up the crowd at men's and women's basketball games, is getting ready for basketball season to begin.

The Bear Pit has supported the Bears since 2005. When they first started, there was a fee to join. Now, there is no fee because the entire student section is the Bear Pit, according to Plano sophomore Parakh Jaggi, a member of the game day committee.

"The Bear Pit is the students at Baylor University. We all are the Bear Pit," Jaggi said. "The Bear Pit isn't just the leadership team. Everyone has a ticket to every men's and women's basketball game. If you are a student at Baylor University, you are a part of the Bear Pit."

The Bear Pit Leadership Team is composed

“ I like seeing us getting into the other team's head. It makes the other team start to make mistakes and our team feeds off of that energy.” **”**

HAYDEN JOHNSON | GAME DAY CHAIR

of 14 members that hold positions in different categories such as events, marketing, game day and social media. The events committee coordinates events, including watch parties and away game trips. The marketing committee provides T-shirts and flyers to raise awareness for the upcoming games. The game day committee is in the stands with other students, coordinating chants and keeping the traditions of the Bear Pit alive every game.

Last year, the Bear Pit started what they hope will be a new tradition: sit in the pit. Sit in the pit is when they bring in a local "celebrity" to sit in the student section and go crazy with the students. Last year, sit in the pit featured Chip Gaines, baseball head coach Steve Rodriguez

and former Baylor forward Jonathan Motley's mother. This year, they are hoping to bring in more "celebrities" and maybe even some previous men's basketball stars.

Another tradition the Bear Pit wants to keep alive is the newspaper. When students arrive at their seats, they find a newspaper on their chair. The students are supposed to keep the newspaper for when the opposing team's starters are announced. As the opposing team is being announced, the students act like they are reading the paper and yell "Who's that?" at every player announced. Then the lights go out and the hype video for Baylor comes on. As the video is playing, the students tear up the newspaper into small strips and get ready to throw it in the air. As soon as the lights come on, everyone throws

BEAR PIT >> Page 12

Bears face off with versatile Red Raiders

COLLIN BRYANT
Sports Writer

Baylor football (1-8) is set to square off with Texas Tech (4-5) Saturday in the ninth annual Texas Farm Bureau Shootout.

The series between the Bears and Red Raiders will be played in Arlington for the seventh time and the record between the two teams is tied at 37-37-1. Last season, sophomore quarterback Zach Smith started the game, passing for 377 yards. The Bears offense racked up 600 total yards, but committed four turnovers, allowing the Red Raiders to score a 54-35 blowout victory.

With Smith still questionable for the game, freshman quarterback Charlie Brewer is slated to make his second start of the season. Last week against the Kansas Jayhawks, the freshman completed 79 percent of his passes, 23 of his 29 attempts.

In his weekly press conference, Texas Tech head coach Kliff Kingsbury said he feels the Bears coaching staff has done a great job building their young player core and that Brewer presents a stiff challenge as a versatile quarterback.

“Anytime you start as many young players as they did this season, which I’m sure was a part of their plan, you see those guys grow week in and week out,” Kingsbury said. “They’ve done a nice job bringing those guys along. Brewer is very elusive, can extend plays. For a young player, he really takes care of the football well.”

During his press conference, Kingsbury said the threat sophomore wide receiver Denzel Mims presents on the outside, due to his ability to get out in space and make people miss, is a difficult matchup for his defense.

Texas Tech is also an offensive threat in its own right. Last season in the shootout, the Red Raiders surpassed the Bears in passing with 586 yards. The Red Raiders are poised for similar production. Texas Tech senior quarterback Nik Shimonek has thrown for at least 300 yards in five games this season, two of which were in his last two games against the Oklahoma Sooners and Kansas State Wildcats.

Baylor head coach Matt Rhule said the Red Raiders are a difficult team to match up with because of their versatility.

“Offensively, they’re dynamic,” Rhule said. “They go fast, so they challenge you with tempo. They challenge you, they spread the field. They do everything. Coach [Kingsbury] does a great job.”

Red Raider junior wide receiver Keke Coutee also poses a threat. Last year against the Bears, Coutee had a career high in receiving with 221 yards. Last week against Kansas State, he matched his career high in receptions, catching 12 passes for 189 yards. Coutee has been one of Shimonek’s favorite targets, having three games of at least 150 yards receiving.

The Bears will look to players like sophomore linebacker Jordan Williams who, Rhule said, is doing a good job at commanding the defense with his aggressive play.

“We’ve challenged him to become more physical, and I thought he played really, really physically in that game,” Rhule said. “I think the thing that he did was, when you face those offenses that are so multiple, there’s so many times you have to



Associated Press

OFFENSIVE SHOOTOUT Freshman quarterback Charlie Brewer tucks the ball and runs during Saturday’s 38-9 win over Kansas in Lawrence, Kan. Brewer will lead the Bears when they play the Red Raiders at 11 a.m. Saturday at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

get everyone on the same page. I thought Jordan was so calming out there. He’s got everyone on the same page.”

The Bears will rely on senior linebacker Taylor Young, who played a breakout game last weekend against the Jayhawks. Young, who switched to middle linebacker to replace an injured sophomore Clay Johnston, recorded 10 tackles.

Rhule said Young had a more than efficient week preparing for the upcoming game and his play showed the work he put in.

“I thought it was really special during the week leading up to it and then to be able to go out in the game and play at that level,” Rhule said. “Not just in terms of the production, 10 tackles, tackle for loss and a sack. Not just that but, the way he played, what it looked like on film.”

The Bears look to capture a second win against Texas Tech at 11 a.m. Saturday at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.



Photo Courtesy of Baylor Athletics

GOING FOR SPEED Baylor men’s cross country gets set to race in the Joe Piane Notre Dame Invitational on Sept. 29 at the Burke Golf Course in South Bend, Ind. Both the men’s and women’s teams will compete in the South Central Regional Championship at 9:15 a.m. today in College Station.

Cross country sprints toward South Central Regional meet

BEN EVERETT
Sports Writer

The Baylor cross country team competes in the South Central Regional Championship starting at 9:15 a.m. today in College Station.

The Bears will compete against 28 other teams from the South Central Region, including teams from Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana.

The men’s team is coming off of a sixth-place finish at the Big 12 Championship, while the women finished fifth at the same event.

Sophomore Devin Meyrer earned All-Big 12 honors after placing 12th in the 8,000-meter men’s race at the Big 12 Championships, but it was not enough to place the team in the top five.

Meyrer said the team

was disappointed in the performance because he knows how talented the team is.

“We had a lot of things not line up that day,” Meyrer said. “Which is a bummer because, according to what Coach keeps telling me, this is one of the most talented teams we’ve had.”

The men’s team is ranked sixth in the South Central region, while the women come in at fourth.

The top two placing teams in the Regional Championship are awarded an automatic bid to the NCAA Championships, along with the four best individual performances. All other teams are subject to at-large selection by the NCAA Selection Committee.

Head coach Todd Harbour said he has confidence in both

teams to compete at a high level.

“I like our team and I like the shot that we have,” Harbour said. “We know we’re going to race hard out front. They’re going to have to get after it. We have a good shot at it. We’ve just got to put it together.”

All Big 12 performers sophomore Anna West and junior Lindsey Bradley headline the group of seven runners that will race in the 6,000-meter women’s race today. Sophomore Gabby Satterlee, freshman Brooke Gilmore, freshman Sarah Antrich, sophomore Alison Andrews-Paul, freshman Madelaine Johnston and sophomore Hana Marsheck will also compete for the women’s team.

Meyrer, senior Eric Anderson, freshman T.J.

Sugg, senior Matt Parham, graduate student Jordan West, senior Sam Sahli, junior Sean McCullough and freshman Jeremy Meadows will compete in the 10,000-meter men’s race.

Assistant coach Jon Capron said the men’s team is better suited for the 10,000-meter race, so he is expecting better results than the 8,000-meter race results from the Big 12 Championship.

“We’re a built a little bit more (for a 10k race),” Capron said. “I build these guys for this race. We’re hoping for a better performance. The 10K course is a lot more straight forward. You don’t mess around with it. It usually runs pretty true.”

If either team qualifies, they will compete in the NCAA Championships on Nov. 18 in Louisville, Ky.

Basketball team surprises classes with free Cane’s

BROOKE HILL
Staff Writer

Students have been buzzing all week about the men’s basketball team’s guest appearances in random classes to gift those lucky few with free meals from Raising Cane’s.

The basketball team and staff shocked four classes Monday through Thursday with a surprise entrance, and they came bearing gifts.

“I was very surprised when the basketball players brought canes into [Michael] Korpi’s class,” said Austin sophomore Jaelyn Galindo. “Korpi had just starting teaching and then a bunch of people just busted in the classroom and starting handing out bags of Cane’s. It was amazing.”

Morgan Fleming, associate director of fan engagement & graphic design for the athletics department, was the one who suggested the idea to the staff.

“My biggest intention behind this was just to get people talking and get excitement going for basketball season, so we knew this would be a unique way to get people’s attention,” Fleming said. “I knew students have 5000 things on their calendars so we wanted to stand out.”

Fleming said another goal of hers was to find a way that the staff and players could interact with the students.

“The basketball players and staff, they’re just some of the most fun and charismatic and personable coaches and players that I’ve worked with, and I’m not sure that they get their chance to get seen by students, for students to meet them and see their personalities,” Fleming said. “I want people to see how much fun Coach [Scott] Drew is. I want to make sure everyone knows the players by name and by face and knows [head basketball] coach Drew because they’re awesome and they’re a lot of fun and they want you to be a part of their family.”

Fleming explained that the goal was to do something just to give back to the students. The team hoped to brighten students’ day and surprise them, as well as get them talking about the upcoming season.

Grapevine sophomore Taylor Wolf was certainly surprised on Monday when the team interrupted her chemistry class.

“They just walked in and we’re all looking around at each other like, ‘what is happening?’” Wolf said. “It was surreal, the best start to my day.”

Fleming said she worked with the academic performance department to find professors who were known for their support of Baylor athletics and had their syllabus set up in a way that a guest appearance from the team this week wouldn’t conflict too much with their classes. The team showed up to a chemistry class, a mass communications class, an environmental science class and an art class.

The men’s basketball team’s season opener is at noon today at the Ferrell Center against Central Arkansas. The men enter the season ranked 24 by the Associated Press.

Baylor athletics signs 22 recruits

BEN EVERETT
Sports Writer

Twenty-two high school athletes from across the country signed on today to play for Baylor as a part of national signing day for basketball, baseball and softball.

Head women's basketball coach Kim Mulkey brings in the No. 1 ranked recruiting class in the country, according to ESPN.

Mulkey said the group will help keep the Lady Bears in the national spotlight for the coming years.

"I am thrilled to welcome these five talented and well-rounded young ladies to the Lady Bear basketball family," Mulkey said. "Our program is gaining elite student-athletes, but more importantly, invested parents and families, who were very involved in each of their daughters' college decision. They will continue to help us keep our program at an elite level, which gives us a lot to look forward to in the future. We are excited to welcome the Fierce Five to Baylor."

The class consists of wing Aquira DeCosta, forward NaLyssa Smith, post Queen Egbo, point guard Honesty Scott-Grayson and wing Caitlin Bickle.

DeCosta and Smith are ranked in the top 10 of espnW HoopGurlz recruiting rankings and all five players are in the top 30 with five-star ratings.

Mulkey said Smith has the chance to be one of the best players the Lady Bears have ever had.

"We've been following NaLyssa and recruiting her heavily for the last five years," Mulkey said. "NaLyssa has the ability to play and defend every position on the floor. She can certainly be one of the most impactful players we've had in our program, and keeping her in-state was a high priority for me and my staff."

Head men's basketball coach Scott Drew brings in two players for his 2018 recruiting class.

Small forward Matthew Mayer is ranked No. 57 in the ESPN 100 and shooting guard Darius Allen is a four-star junior college prospect from Palm Beach State.

Palm Beach head coach Martin McCann said Allen's relationship with Baylor assistant coach Alvin Brooks contributed to his decision to play for the Bears.

"Baylor feels at home for Darius and he's created a strong relationship with Coach Brooks," McCann told the Waco Tribune-Herald. "He really enjoyed getting to know



Lariat File Photo

DEVELOPING A FOUNDATION Men's basketball head coach Scott Drew and his coaching staff coach the team against Oklahoma on Jan. 24, 2015, at the Ferrell Center. Two players signed for the men's basketball team in the 2018 recruiting class.

some of their players."

While Drew and his staff still have a chance to snag more recruits in the late signing period, these two will provide a foundation for the class.

Drew said Mayer will bring offensive versatility to the Bears when he arrives for his freshman year.

"Offensively, he's very talented and he continues to grow," Drew said. "He's somebody that is very versatile and can play a number of positions. He's a great student and he'll be a great representative for Baylor University."

Head baseball coach Steve Rodriguez brings in a versatile group of seven players- six of whom are Texas natives.

Braxton Ashcraft, Logan Freeman, Brooks Helmer, Ricky Martinez, Anderson Needham, Ryan Segner and Branson Wilson are all listed as right-handed pitchers, but Ashcraft, Helmer, Martinez and Wilson can all play multiple

positions on defense.

Rodriguez said the coaching staff is excited to bring in the next generation of Baylor pitchers.

"We went heavy on pitching to bolster the amount of quality frontline arms that will make an immediate impact to our pitching staff," Rodriguez said. "Our program is developing a solid foundation for the future and we are very excited about the direction we are going."

Ashcraft could have played wide receiver in college, but he chose to pursue his dream of being a professional baseball player.

"In my living room, as a little kid, my dream was to be like Stephen Strasburg and Clayton Kershaw," Ashcraft told the Waco-Tribune Herald. "Those were the guys I looked up to. To see that dream in front of me is great, but to a degree it's kind of overwhelming when you think your dreams could actually come true."

The 2017 College World Series participant

Baylor softball team will add eight players from the 2018 recruiting class.

Head coach Glenn Moore added five players from Texas, one from Oklahoma, one from Kansas and one from Missouri.

Moore said the group is very diverse and will be solid foundation for the team in the coming years.

"This is a very diverse class and certainly one of the largest we've ever signed," Moore said. "With a transfer and possibly a redshirt we will still have at least six incoming freshmen. We have every area covered with left-and right-handed pitching, catching, infield and outfield."

Outfielders Lindsey Gilbert, Josie Bower, Ana Watson and Casey Shell, first baseman Kendall Cross, catcher Tyler Trott and pitchers Madison Lindsey and Sidney Holman will look to replace production lost from graduated seniors.

Big 12 men's basketball looks stronger than ever

BEN EVERETT
Sports Writer

With college basketball starting this week, I took a look at the Big 12 programs and where they stand heading into opening night.

1. Kansas

The Jayhawks have won 13 straight Big 12 regular season championships and show no signs of slowing down, even after graduating National Player of the Year Frank Mason. Senior point guard Devonte' Graham is the preseason pick to win Big 12 Player of the Year as he takes the reins from Mason. Mississippi State transfer guard Malik Newman looks to resurrect his college career alongside Graham while freshman power forward Billy Preston and sophomore center Udoka Azubuike will give head coach Bill Self a formidable front court.

2. West Virginia

As long as Bob Huggins is head coach, the Mountaineers will be no fun to play. His "Press Virginia" style of defense has wreaked havoc across college basketball and keeps the Mountaineers near the top of the Big 12 each year. The veteran backcourt, consisting of senior guards Jevon Carter and Daxter Miles, Jr., returns for its final year in Morgantown while junior forward Esa Ahmad will look to take a step forward after averaging 11.3 points per game as a sophomore.

3. Baylor

The AP poll voters learned their lesson last year. After not receiving a vote in the preseason poll, the Bears ended up being a mainstay in the top 10 and reached No. 1 for the first time in school history. Defensive stalwart Ish Wainright is gone, as is leading scorer Johnathan Motley, but the No. 24-ranked Bears have much of the same team returning. Senior point guard Manu Lecomte is the best three-point shooter in the conference and senior center Jo Lual-Acuil, Jr. has a chance to lead the Big 12 in blocks in back-to-back years.

4. TCU

Every coach in the Big 12 should be afraid of Jamie Dixon. In his first season as head coach of the Horned Frogs, they went 24-15 and won the NIT. Entering his second season, they were picked to finish third in the conference and narrowly missed being ranked in the AP Top 25. Jaylen Fisher will run the show after a strong freshman season and former Texas A&M transfer guard Alex Robinson will provide veteran leadership in the backcourt. Up front, senior Vladimir Brodziansky could be a dark horse candidate for Big 12 Player of the Year after averaging 14 points and six rebounds a game for the Horned Frogs in only 23 minutes per game as a junior.

5. Texas

The Longhorns head into the 2017-18 season with high expectations and lots of pressure to succeed. Texas had a highly disappointing 2016-17 campaign, going 11-22 despite being ranked No. 21 in the preseason AP poll. The Longhorns reload despite losing first round draft pick Jarrett Allen by bringing in five-star center Mohamed Bamba, who was



voted Big 12 Preseason Freshman of the Year. Additionally, freshman point guard Matt Coleman and transfer power forward Dylan Osetkowski should help alleviate some of the Longhorns' major struggles (shooting and ball handling) from last season.

6. Oklahoma

Following a Final Four run in 2016, the Sooners put together a solid season in 2017 behind a group of young, talented players. The majority of the team returns, and with the addition of sharpshooting point guard and Norman native Trae Young, Oklahoma could find itself back in the NCAA Tournament. Sophomore guard Kameron McGusty and sophomore forward Kristian Doolittle will look to build off of stellar freshman seasons and rim protector extraordinaire Khadeem Lattin returns to Norman for his senior campaign.

7. Texas Tech

The Red Raiders return four of their top six scorers from last season, including guard Keenan Evans, who shot a scorching 43 percent from 3-point range last season. Zach Smith could have gone pro, but the athletic forward decided to return for his senior season where he is picked to be first team All Big 12 in the preseason ballot. Head coach Chris Beard will look to guide Texas Tech to its second NCAA Tournament appearance in three years.

8. Kansas State

The Wildcats have been inconsistent under Bruce Weber but always seem to yield a formidable team. K-State loses Wesley Iwundu to the NBA and D.J. Johnson to graduation, but a returning backcourt of Barry Brown and Kamau Stokes will ensure the Wildcats stay competitive. Junior forward Dean Wade has averaged nine points and five rebounds a game in each of his first two seasons in Manhattan, but needs to improve if the Wildcats are to make the NCAA Tournament for a second straight season.

9. Iowa State

Monte Morris, Naz Long, Deonte Burton and Matt Thomas have all finished their Cyclone careers. Iowa State will be a completely new team this year, and that is not a good thing for Cyclone fans. Freshman point guard Lindell Wigginton is a high-level recruit, but there's not much else. That being said, the Cyclones always get a couple of upset wins, especially at Hilton Coliseum.

10. Oklahoma State

Brad Underwood bolted for Illinois, leaving Mike Boynton in charge of a team that lost Jawun Evans and Phil Forte. Jeffrey Carroll will contend for Big 12 Player of the Year and Mitchell Solomon will beast opponents on the offensive glass, but it's hard to see the Cowboys winning many games. Additionally, Oklahoma State's top assistant coach was recently arrested amid the FBI investigations ravaging college basketball.

SPORTS TAKE

This Weekend in Sports:

Friday

Equestrian vs. University of Texas
10 a.m. at Willis Family Equestrian Center

Men's basketball vs. University of Central Arkansas
Noon at Ferrell Center

Lariat Radio play-by-play by Thomas Mott and Jakob Brandenburg will be available at www.mixlr.com/baylor-lariat-radio or on the "Mixlr" app under "Baylor Lariat Radio."

Baseball in Sic 'Em World Series Tailgate
4 p.m. at Baylor Ballpark
Admission is free for all

Soccer vs. Rice University in first round of NCAA Tournament
5 p.m. at Betty Lou Mays Field
Admission is \$10

Women's basketball vs. Lamar University
7 p.m. at Ferrell Center

Saturday

Football vs. Texas Tech
11 a.m. at AT&T Stadium in Arlington

Lariat Radio play-by-play by Thomas Mott and Jakob Brandenburg will be available at www.mixlr.com/baylor-lariat-radio or on the "Mixlr" app under "Baylor Lariat Radio."

Sunday

Women's basketball vs. Coppin State
2 p.m. at Ferrell Center

WOMEN'S from Page 9

just two seniors for the Lady Bears and is ready to take on any responsibility Mulkey asks of her.

"There are definitely times where I have to go inside or out," Cohen said. "Just depending on where she [Mulkey] wants me I will go out there and just try to fulfill the role that she asks me to fulfill."

The team plays three games in a span of five days. Entering the season with quick turnaround matchups can be difficult, especially for a young team, but Mulkey said she isn't treating it any differently.

For Mulkey, preparing for this stretch of three games is the same as getting ready for any other game during the season. However, this stretch is something that the four freshmen on the team are not used to and have not seen before and will have to play hard for several days in a short time.

"[It's] no different. The roster is going to be what it is and hopefully we will stay healthy," Mulkey said. "We will prepare a scouting report and go over everything we need to go over. The only difference is for some of the freshmen, this will be new to them. They have to play this hard for this many days."

While it may be composed of younger players, the team has shown its ability to work together to put up veteran numbers. In their final exhibition game against Washburn, the Lady Bears dominated the paint, scoring 80 points while limiting the Ichabods to just 10.

Sophomore power forward Lauren Cox played 26 minutes and scored 17 points in Monday's win. Cox was just one of seven players on the team to score in double-digits.

Cox credits this success is to the close-knit relationship the players have with one another. With the Cardinals being ranked first in the

Southland Conference preseason rankings, the Lady Bears are going to have to keep up the fast pace and teamwork they have shown during their exhibition games.

"I think we have great team chemistry. Just from playing with each other during the summer," Cox said. "I think we really get along and we know how to play with each other."

After the matchup against Lamar, the Lady Bears will play again against Coppin State at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Ferrell Center.

BEAR PIT from Page 9

the torn-up paper into the air and watches as the paper slowly floats down and covers the student section.

The Bear Pit also has chants just for the opposing players such as "boo game" where everyone boos the opposing team except for one player. When that one player gets the ball, the whole student section explodes with cheers to try to get inside the opposing team's heads.

Port Orchard, Wash., senior and game day chair Hayden Johnson said he believes these small chants and traditions help throw off the opposing teams.

"I like seeing us getting into the other team's head. It makes the other team start to make mistakes and our team feeds off of that energy," Johnson said. "I like seeing our efforts translate to success on the court which is the Bear Pit's main mission."

The Bear Pit is still working to better the student section. They know there are things that they need to improve on to make the

Join the
Bear Pit today!

Men's basketball:
Noon at the Ferrell Center
against University of
Central Arkansas

Women's basketball:
7 p.m. at the Ferrell Center
against Lamar University

student section even rowdier to distract the opposing teams.

Vienna, Va., sophomore Camilla Bruce said that attendance for men's and women's games need to improve in order to help the Bear Pit accomplish this feat.

"We need to get butts in seats as Hayden always says. Raising the attendance will

help make it louder. Also, we need to have more awareness of games," Bruce said. "The attendance of women's games is lower compared to the attendance at men's games, so getting that attendance up as well will be great."

Johnson said that the student section needs to be a more cohesive unit as well, adding that there are times when the chants will be a little off because there is a delay between the students at the front and the students at the back. They will be working to improve that by asking members of the Bear Pit Leadership Team to sit in those areas to improve the cohesiveness.

With the men's and women's season officially starting on today, expect the Bear Pit to be ready and rowdy and for them to ask students to "get butts in seats."

Both the men's and women's teams play at home today. The No. 24 Bears play at noon against Central Arkansas and the No. 3 Lady Bears play at 7 p.m. against Lamar.

What's Happening on Campus?

Sundown Weekend

Friday, Nov. 10

U Break Pop Up Brunch Bar

10 a.m. to noon Come by the Union Board Office on the first floor of the BDSC for free brunch and a cup of coffee, on us!

Sundown Sessions: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, Blacklight Bowling

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Join us in Barfield Drawing Room for showings of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Blacklight Bowling available all evening in the Baylor Gameroom.

Saturday, Nov. 11

Sundown Sessions: Cookies & Cocoa, Blacklight Bowling

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Prepare for the holidays by decorating ornaments and Christmas cookies in Barfield Drawing Room. Blacklight Bowling available all evening in the Baylor Gameroom.

Friday, Nov. 10

Men's Basketball v. Central Arkansas, Women's Basketball v. Lamar

Noon and 7 p.m. Support our basketball teams at the Ferrell Center as they kick off the new season.

Friday, Nov. 10

AsianFest

7 p.m. This showcase of Asian culture will feature various student organizations through modern and traditional acts such as dance, music and fashion, in Waco Hall.

Saturday, Nov. 11

Medical Humanities Symposium

8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The student-led symposium, located in the Baylor Sciences Building Room D110, will feature the many facets of human experience that affect health beyond the biology of disease.

Sunday, Nov. 12

Jazz Combos

3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Members of the Baylor Jazz Program will perform two shows in Jones Concert Hall, McCrary Music Building.

Sunday, Nov. 12

Disaster Benefit Concert

4 p.m. The flute studios from Baylor's School of Music and the University of Texas will present a collaborative concert at Seventh and James Baptist Church at 4 p.m. Proceeds will support those affected by recent natural disasters.

Monday, Nov. 13 and Wednesday, Nov. 15

Portal to the Public: Outdoor Recreation

Noon to 3 p.m. Visit the Mayborn Museum for hands-on activities presented by Outdoor Recreation students.

Monday, Nov. 13 and Tuesday, Nov. 14

Charles Edmonson Historical Lecture

3:30 p.m. Ethan H. Shagan, PhD, professor of history at the University of California, Berkeley, will present two lectures about "The Problems of Belief in Early Modern England." Both lectures will be held in Kayser Auditorium, Hankamer Academic Building.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

ISR Presents: Richard Asante

3:30 p.m. The Institute for Studies of Religion will host Richard Asante, PhD, senior research fellow and lecturer in the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana, Legon, for "The Role of Religion in Electoral Politics in Ghana and America: The Surprising Similarities" in Cox Lecture Hall of Armstrong Browning Library.

Tuesday, Nov. 14

World Cinema Series:

Children Full of Life

6 p.m. This award-winning Japanese film follows the life of a 4th Grade teacher as he shares with his students the most important principle in life. Screening in Bennett Auditorium, Draper Hall.

Wednesday, Nov. 15

All University Thanksgiving Dinner

5 p.m. Join the Baylor Family on Fountain Mall for the annual All University Thanksgiving Dinner. Student ID required.

Thursday, Nov. 16

Japan-Texas Business Forum

2 p.m. to 6 p.m. This year's forum, about connections between Texas and the Japanese economy, will be held in McClinton Auditorium of Foster Campus.

Thursday, Nov. 16

Free Enterprise Forum

4 p.m. Bill Moore, of PacMoore, will present "Faith in the Workspace and Marketplace" in Room 250 of Foster Campus.

Thursday, Nov. 16

Design Den: Serve!

5 p.m. Spend the evening at the Mayborn Museum making cozy fleece blankets to be donated to the Humane Society of Central Texas.

MEN'S

from Page 9

and junior guard Al Freeman graduated and decided to play his final year of eligibility at N.C. State, leaving the Bears with a depleted backcourt.

Lindsey said the lack of depth means the guards will have to be in peak physical condition.

"Obviously losing Chuck and Al hurts," Lindsey said. "We'll just have to do a good job taking care of our bodies and be efficient with how we expend our energy. I think we have plenty of talent."

Central Arkansas brings the No. 1 scoring offense in the Southland Conference during the 2016-17 season to the Ferrell Center.

Drew said UCA's strengths lie on the offensive side of the ball as the Bears play at a fast pace and are not afraid to launch 3-pointers.

"They had the No. 1 rated offense [in the conference] last year," Drew said. "Top 50 pace in country, they play fast and play in transition. They shoot a lot of threes."

The Baylor defense will be keen to UCA senior point guard Jordan Howard, an all-conference performer a season ago after averaging 19.5 points per game and shooting 45 percent from 3-point range.

Drew said he and his staff tried to enlist Howard's brother, Markus, who wound up choosing Marquette, so Baylor holds their family with high esteem.

"Jordan Howard is a returning all-conference player for them," Drew said. "He's a very good player. We recruited his brother Markus Howard, so we have a lot of respect for him and his family."

The Bears stay at home for their second game, facing Texas A&M-Corpus Christi at 7 p.m. Monday at the Ferrell Center.



BAYLOR
UNIVERSITY
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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