WE WILL
RISE

BAYLOR FOOTBALL SEASON IN REVIEW
Jay Lee (4) Wide Receiver — Lee had an ill advised tip, which led to an interception. He would later redeem himself, catching three touchdowns in the Bears’ 56-21 victory.

Corey Coleman (1) Wide Receiver — Coleman’s record setting season got off to a hot start, catching four touchdowns against Lamar. The Bears would cruise to a 66-31 win behind Coleman’s great night.

Seth Russell (17) Quarterback — Russell’s six touchdowns through the air tied a Baylor record. Russell and the Bears routed the Rice Owls, winning the game 70-17.

Shock Linwood (32) Runningback — The Bears defeated Texas Tech 63-35, with Linwood having a career game. Linwood carried the ball 20 times for 221 yards and a pair of scores.

LaQuan McGowan (80) Tight End — The fan favorite tight end caught his first touchdown of the season during the Baylor route of the Jayhawks. The Bears and McGowan blew out Kansas 66-7.

Corey Coleman (1) Wide Receiver — Coleman capped off his record setting season with three touchdown catches against WVU. Coleman broke the single season TD record in the second quarter of Baylor’s 62-38 win.

Remember the Bears
Key moments of Baylor’s 2015 season
Seth Russell (17) Quarterback — In a Homecoming game against Iowa State, Russell was injured on a run late in the fourth quarter. He fractured his neck on the play and was ruled out for the season.

Travon Blanchard (48) Nickelback — In one of the biggest games in program history, a late horsecollar penalty extended the Sooners’ drive and ended Baylor’s hopes of completing a comeback win at home.

Chance War (18) Safety — Playing in a freezing, torrential downpour, a crucial pass interference in overtime helped keep the Horned Frogs alive. Baylor went on to lose the game 28-21 in double-overtime.

Jarrett Stidham (3) Quarterback — The true freshman put together a near-perfect performance in his first start on the road against the Kansas State Wildcats. Baylor won the game 31-24 in dramatic fashion.

KD Cannon (9) Wide Receiver — Cannon had his biggest performance of the season as third-string quarterback Chris Johnson led the Bears to their first win over Oklahoma State in Stillwater, Okla., since 1939.

Chris Johnson (13) Quarterback — Baylor’s third-string quarterback was knocked out of the game in the first quarter after suffering a concussion. With a makeshift quarterback under center, BU would lose 23-17.
Seasonal Success
A LOOK BACK AT BAYLOR FOOTBALL 2015

1. Senior wide receiver Jay Lee slides into a touchdown at the Blackout Game against Oklahoma on Nov. 14.

2. Junior cornerback Ryan Reid directs the next play with his teammates on SMU’s field on Sept. 4.

3. Freshman wide receiver Chris Platt makes it into open field on a 84 yard kickoff return in the fourth quarter versus West Virginia on Oct. 17.

4. Junior wide receiver Corey Coleman receives a pass from junior quarterback Seth Russell and makes a touchdown during the home game against Iowa State on Oct. 24.

5. Freshman second-string quarterback Jarrett Stidham makes a run for it on offense at home on Nov. 14.

Bears experience highs of big wins, lows of injuries and upsets

JOSHUA DAVIS & TYLER CAGLE

October 29, 2015

Baylor football began in 2015 campaign with hopes of making the College Football Playoff, but a sea of red attire proved too costly as the Bears finished their season 9-3. After ending fourth in the Big 12, head coach Art Briles and Baylor are left thinking about what could’ve been.

Although the outcome didn’t meet the expectations, the defense was not a complete loss, players said.

“Some were some teams that lose to 9-3, so I don’t really see us as a disappointment,” senior right tackle Spencer Drango said. “The disappointing thing is not sending the seniors out with a win at home. For us we’re still going to a bowl, so we’re excited to be a part of that.”

Junior played a big role in the Bears ability to cope with the garnet of games toward the latter part of their schedule.

Whether it was a quarterback, running back, defensive lineman or defensive back, Baylor was unable to keep its best players healthy.

After reaching the highest AP ranking in program history (No. 2), the Bears made the most postseason trips ever for the 2015 season.

Had the Bears been fully healthy, the tandem of Baylor’s 2015 season could have been significantly different.

Despite the fourth place finish in the conference, against a danger on an otherwise extraordinary Baylor team.

“This was probably the best Baylor team that’s been here, the record doesn’t show it,” Coleman said.

Baylor faces No. 10 UNC in the Russell Athletic Bowl on Dec. 29 in Orlando, Fla.

PRODUCING ON THE FIELD Head coach Art Briles paces the sidelines during that Bears’ game against West Virginia on Oct. 27 at McLane Stadium in Waco. Briles led Baylor to its sixth-straight bowl after finishing 9-3 on the season.

SOPHOMORES MAKE IMPACT

Junior quarterback Seth Russell and junior wide receiver Corey Coleman were forming one of the most dynamic duos in college football, and Baylor’s offense appeared unstoppable.

Coleman made opposing cornerbacks look foolish at times, as he claimed the Baylor record for most receiving touchdowns in a season with 16.

With his skillful receiver, the All-American receiver said he will head for the NFL Draft after the bowl game. According to his head coach, Coleman may be the best receiver over to come out of Waco.

We’ve had some great receivers here before, but what makes Corey great is that he’s very dynamic with the football. That’s what separates him (from the greats). He’s a very passionate guy that plays with a lot of emotion, and when his emotions are in check, he’s about as good as there is,” Briles said.

Junior cornerback Ryan Reid finished the season with nine interceptions and nine passes defended.

“Defensive coordinator Phil Bennett’s scheme.”, Waz said.

In his 13 games of action, Waz racked up 59 tackles, starting nine games in 2015.

Junior cornerback Xavien Howard finished the season with five interceptions and nine passes defended. Howard’s big time play and ability to cover one on one with receivers allowed the Bears to in the running. Briles said.

The balance between the Bears’ passing attack and their ground game, junior runningback Shock Linwood leading the charge, looked like a juggernaut. The running backs’ uncanny ability to remain on his feet and pick up first downs helped Baylor own the

OFFENSE

Junior quarterback Seth Russell and junior wide receiver Corey Coleman were forming one of the most dynamic duos in college football, and Baylor’s offense appeared unstoppable.

Coleman made opposing cornerbacks look foolish at times, as he claimed the Baylor record for most receiving touchdowns in a season with 16.

The Bears ranked 27th in the nation, allowing 136 rushing yards per game this season. Although the Bears started off rocky against the rush, they gradually improved.

The pinnacle of the Bears’ rush defense came against the Oklahoma State Cowboys in Stillwater. The Cowboys only gained 8 yards on the ground against Baylor, averaging 0.3 yards per carry.

DEFENSE

After facing questions and doubts during the preseason, the Bears defense showed it was a quality unit. The stats don’t entirely show the impact of the Bears as they stop on defense this season.

After combining for 90 tackles, 31 tackles for loss and 11 sacks last season, senior defensive ends Shawn Oakman and Henry Hawthorne are expected to dominate opponents in 2015.

The Bears’ secondary was vastly improved from last season. After ranking 109th in the nation, 11th in the Big 12 conference, with the Bears finished the 2015 season 75th in passing yards allowed per game in 2015.

With All-Big 12 safety Orion Stewart out, sophomore cornerback Chase Waz filled in at the safety.

In his 13 games of action, Waz racked up 59 tackles, starting nine games in 2015.

Junior cornerback Xavien Howard finished the season with five interceptions and nine passes defended. Howard’s big time play and ability to cover one on one with receivers allowed the Bears to in the running. Briles said.

The balance between the Bears’ passing attack and their ground game, junior runningback Shock Linwood leading the charge, looked like a juggernaut. The running

bears’ uncanny ability to remain on his feet and pick up first downs helped Baylor own the
Bears to play in sixth-straight bowl

Player Ratings: Baylor’s depth gets tested

**OFFENSE**

**SHAUN OAKMAN (DE)** — After winning All-American honors in 2014 with 32 tackles, 19 1/2 sacks and 6 1/2 forced fumbles, Oakman returned to form against Oklahoma. However, Oakman has underperformed in 2015, registering just 14 tackles and 4 1/2 sacks. While opposing offenses often line up double-tight to stop the 6’9 Oakman, his play simply did not live up to the hype. GRADE: B-

**ANDREW BILINGS (DT)** — Bills established himself as one of the most dominant linemen in the country this season. Bilings recorded 32 tackles, 12 1/2 for loss, and had 44 tackles for loss with 4 1/2 sacks. Bills battled through an ankle injury in the second half of the year but, when healthy, was extremely disruptive in the trenches. GRADE: A-

**SETH RUSSELL (QB)** — Russell was a game changer for the Bears in 2014 with 2,104 yards, 29 touchdowns with six interceptions and 21 touchdowns through seven games, he had Baylor looking like a contender for the College Football Playoff. GRADE: A

**SHAWN OAKMAN (DE)** — After winning All-American honors in 2014 with 32 tackles, 19 1/2 sacks and 6 1/2 forced fumbles, Oakman returned to form against Oklahoma. However, Oakman has underperformed in 2015, registering just 44 tackles and 4 1/2 sacks. While opposing offenses often line up double-tight to stop the 6’9 Oakman, his play simply did not live up to the hype. GRADE: B-

**LAUREN MCGUINNESS** — McGuinness was a sleeper on the depth chart of Williams and Hood, the Bears should be able to put together a top-five unit for the rest of the season. The Tar Heels surrendered 216.8 yards per game to the Baylor offense last season. GRADE: C

**DEFENSE**

**RYAN REID (CB)** — Reid was a top ten pick last season out of Oklahoma. Reid showed in 2014 he can successfully run the ball against the spotty UNC defense and can in turn stop the rushing attack of Williams and Hood. GRADE: B

**CHANCE WAZ (S)** — After starting over his career at Texas A&M, Reid developed into a safety for the Bears. Reid started 39 tackles in those 9 games. Reid will present a challenge. GRADE: B-

**TRAYON BLANCHARD (DB) — Blanchard was a true freshman this season, intercepting 2 passes and forcing 3 fumbles. His range, athletic play at the Bear safety position was very promising. Blanchard ended his first starting season with great numbers, registering 76 tackles. 7.5 for loss and 2 sacks. GRADE: A-

**TAR HEEL FOOTBALL | North Carolina running back Elijah Hood scores a touchdown during the second half of an NCAA college football game in Blacksburg, Va., Nov. 21.**

**OFFENSIVE MVP**

**COREY COLEMAN (WR) — Coleman had a season for the ages and put up the greatest season in Baylor history. Coleman ranked up an astounding 23 touchdowns this season and had 98 receptions for 1,371 yards, 10 touchdowns along with his 20 returns. GRADE: A+

**DEFENSIVE MVP**

**RYAN REID (CB)** — Reid was a top ten pick last season out of Oklahoma. Reid showed in 2014 he can successfully run the ball against the spotty UNC defense and can in turn stop the rushing attack of Williams and Hood. GRADE: B
Baylor Student Publications is taking on the nation.

National Crown Award Winners
Columbia Scholastic Press Association

1,203 Student Publications were submitted from across the country.
Only 31 Universities received a National Crown award for their submissions from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

Of those 31 Universities, Baylor Student Publications was the ONLY ONE in THE NATION to be recognized as a Triple Crown Recipient.

Baylor Focus Magazine
Gold (Top 10)

Baylor Lariat Newspaper/Website
Hybrid Silver (Top 15)

Baylor Roundup Yearbook
Silver (Top 5)