

NEW ERA OF BAYLOR ATHLETICS

Fresh leadership brings new life to athletic programs.
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SUMMER BALL

Lauren Cox, new Lady Bear plays with U18 national team, wins gold.
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“We’re going to fight.”
-Seth Russell

Seth Russell on the season. **pg. C1**

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Not looking back: Embracing change

NATE KEIL
Sports Writer



Moving forward
Despite challenges, Bears embrace change

Sarah Pyo | Lariat Editor

Senior quarterback Seth Russell dodges West Virginia University's defense and runs the ball last season's home game at McLane Stadium on October 17.

To say that the Baylor football program experienced one of the most tumultuous off-seasons in recent memory would be an understatement. As news of sexual assault allegations and pending lawsuits continued to flood headlines across the nation, massive changes had to be made by the Bears, who were coming off a 10-3 campaign, including a 49-38 win over North Carolina in the Russell Athletic Bowl.

The changes began when Baylor announced that head coach Art Briles had been fired and that Ken Starr was being removed from his position as president, making room for David Garland to serve as interim president of the university. On May 30, Baylor hired Jim Grobe, former head coach at Wake Forest University, as its interim head football coach. Just mere hours later, Baylor athletics director Ian McCaw resigned. These changes were brought on when details were released in a report by Pepper Hamilton, the Philadelphia based law firm hired to investigate Baylor's handling of sexual assault cases.

"Institutional failures at every level of Baylor's administration impacted the response to individual cases and the Baylor community as a whole," found in the Findings of Fact.

Although nothing can be done to erase the crimes committed against members of Baylor's student body, the university is committed to taking the correct measures to make sure these heinous acts of sexual violence do not continue.

As the university begins to implement the 105 recommendations presented by the Pepper Hamilton LLP, where does that leave the current members of the 2016 Baylor football program? How do they begin to flip the script on this past offseason?

It requires them getting back to what they know, and that is football. It is a new season and although the personnel is different, Grobe is committed to keeping the same successful schemes in place and making the transition as smooth as possible

for his players.

"I thought it was really important, especially for our players, to have the same terminology, the same type of schemes as much as possible. But hopefully as we go forward, if I do see things that I think might help us be a little better, we might put a little different spin on a few things," Grobe said at the Big 12 Football Media Day.

Grobe said he is impressed with the character of his football team since taking over for Briles.

"We have a lot of really, really good kids," Grobe said. "All I can speak to is since I've been at Baylor. We've lost some kids that were dealt with previously, but the kids I've been associated with are quality kids. I want to support the good kids in our program

that are doing the right things."

One of those students Grobe is referenced is senior quarterback Seth Russell. Russell, who watched his season cut short last year after suffering a neck injury against Iowa State, has returned with a championship mindset and a commitment to excellence.

"You can throw whatever you want at us. You can take our head coach away; you can take our athletic director away; you can take our president," Russell said at Big 12 Football Media Day. "But you're not going to knock us out. We're going to come back and we're going to fight."

Senior cornerback Ryan Reid shares Russell's stance on moving past the distractions and maintaining a competitive mindset.

"What we came here to do — win football games, win the Big 12, contend for a national championship," Reid said at Big 12 Football Media Day. "That's what we need to focus on."

The tarnished image of the football team will not quickly dissipate. Although healing is an often slow and painful process, the Baylor community, as well as the Baylor football team, are actively engaged in this process, hoping to put these tragedies behind them for good. The challenge is rigorous and the order is tall, but Grobe and Baylor football are prepared to face this challenge head-on.

"I know the challenge is great. We play a lot of good football teams going forward, but we have to get people to understand that we've got a great group of kids at Baylor University," Grobe said. "And I think going forward, Baylor is going to be better than we have ever been. I'm proud to be at Baylor, and I can't wait to start the season."

Pat Summitt: More than a coach

Nate Keil
Sports Writer

On June 28, the sports world lost one of the most prolific, fierce, inspiring and competitive coaches it has ever seen: Pat Summitt. The former University of Tennessee women's basketball coach lost her courageous battle with early onset Alzheimer's disease five years after her diagnosis.

"Pat was the greatest coach of all time; her fierce spirit will live on through her players and through all of us who were inspired by her on a daily basis," said University of Tennessee Chancellor Jimmy G. Cheek in a statement released on the University of Tennessee at Knoxville's website. "Our sincerest sympathies go out to Tyler and all her friends and family."

Summitt's success and impact were not simply limited to her 1,098 career wins, an NCAA record, or being the coach of the 1984 Women's Olympic Basketball team that brought home the gold medal in Los Angeles. It wasn't about the fact that she was so highly respected she was asked to coach the men's basketball team on more than one occasion. It was more than the prestigious Arthur Ashe Courage Award she received at the 2012 ESPY's.

"She'll be remembered as the all-time winningest D-1 basketball coach in NCAA history, but she was more than a coach to so many," said Tyler Summitt, Pat's son, in an interview with CNN.

Summitt was a devoted mother and a competitive and rigorous coach who desired to see her players reach their full potential both on and off the court.

"She was a devoted mother to her son, an intense coach, honorable person, fiery in her younger days. She was not afraid to challenge officials or challenge players because she expected the best from them. She was the best you would want a coach to be," said Kim Mulkey, Baylor University's women's basketball head coach.

Mulkey shared a unique bond and friendship with Summitt that spanned over 30 years, both playing for Summitt on the 1984 Olympic team and against her as a head coach at Louisiana Tech and Baylor. They faced everything from the joys and struggles of parenting to the ecstasy of winning a national championship, from perseverance and resiliency through a pending divorce to understanding yourself and your limits as a coach.

"She taught me that I have to be myself," Mulkey said. "Pat's personality is how she coached. My personality is how I coach. Intensity, passion and demanding the most from my players. I could relate to her."

In spite of her fiery demeanor and intensity on the sidelines, Summitt was extremely loyal to her players and genuinely loved every one of them. During a warm-up tournament in Taipei,



Courtesy of Baylor University

FRIENDLY ADVERSARIES Mulkey and Summitt embrace after the Lady Bears 77-58 victory over the Lady Vols in 2012, to advance to the Final Four.

Taiwan, before the 1984 Olympic games, Mulkey experienced this loyalty firsthand. While playing in the tournament, Mulkey experienced a stress fracture and could barely walk. The Olympics were a mere four weeks away, and as quickly as the injury occurred, her dream was on the verge of being over.

"I remember when she called me into her hotel room, I was scared she was going to send me home and pick up an alternate. Instead, she sat me down, comforted me and told me that you've earned the right to be on the team," Mulkey said.

Somewhere between finding the time to be a loving mother and demanding coach who continued to recruit and win at the highest level, Summitt became a catalyst for change not just for women's athletics, but also for athletics in general.

"She has so many contributions," Mulkey said. "Salaries and resources are the way they are because of Pat. She was a good, Southern lady who would do anything to see the women's game grow. She would speak at places and play the toughest schedule. It would have been incredible to see what her accomplishments would have been if she had stayed healthy."

Not everyone had the honor and privilege of playing for and coaching against Summitt like Mulkey did. However, she set an example for everyone, regardless of participation in or knowledge of women's basketball.

"It's okay to be female and be intense," Mulkey said. "It's okay to challenge refs and players and demand things from them and be a lady and a professional."

This truth is one that Mulkey takes with her every day when she heads into her office.

"When you head to the basketball court, do your job and do it passionately, professionally, and compete," Mulkey said.

Stidham out

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WACO (AP) — Jarrett Stidham is transferring from Baylor rather than stay to be the primary backup quarterback behind senior Seth Russell.

Stidham made his decision public in a statement posted on his Twitter account Thursday, saying it came after careful thought and consideration.

"I would like to thank my teammates, friends, family and fellow students for the support throughout my career thus far," he wrote. "Also, I want to thank the coaching staff that brought me here and gave me this opportunity to play. This has been a difficult decision."

His announcement came six weeks after Baylor regents announced their intention to fire coach Art Briles with the release of a report over the university's handling of sexual assault complaints against football players. The school and Briles mutually agreed to part ways two weeks ago, but all of the assistant coaches, including offensive coordinator Kendal Briles, remain with the Bears.

During an appearance on ESPN Central Texas radio Thursday, Baylor acting head coach Jim Grobe said he had spoken with Stidham earlier in the day.

"I don't think he was happy backing up Seth Russell, and so he's decided to move on and try to find a place where he can get more snaps," Grobe said.

Stidham, who appeared in 10 games as a freshman with three starts after Russell's season-ending neck injury, didn't say in his post where he was planning to go.

Since he hasn't taken a redshirt season yet, Stidham could have three seasons of eligibility remaining. He could enroll in a junior college this fall, and then transfer to another Division I school.

Stidham completed 75 of 109 passes (69 percent) for 1,265 yards with 12 touchdowns and two interceptions for the Bears. His three starts came after Russell, then the top-rated FBS passer, suffered his injury Oct. 24. Stidham broke a bone in his right ankle in his third start, and missed the last three games, including Baylor's bowl game.



Sarah Pyo | Lariat Photographer

BEAR NO MORE Former Bear Jarrett Stidham throws a pass against Oklahoma State on November 21.



Liesje Powers | Lariat Photographer

New Baylor head football coach Jim Grobe has some big shoes to fill, taking over the football program after Art Briles. Here he is answering questions at a press conference last Friday.

Sports take: Jim Grobe's season might look like...

JORDAN SMITH
Sports Writer

There's a new man in charge of Baylor University football, and his name is Jim Grobe. He was brought in as the new head football coach for Baylor University on June 3, 2016. This came after longtime head coach Art Briles was fired amid the sexual assault scandals that were brought to light earlier this summer.

Grobe had a record of 77-82 while he served as head coach at Wake Forest University from 2001 to 2013, at which time he resigned from his position. He hasn't coached since. Overall, his coaching record is at 110-115-1 since starting in 1995 at Ohio State University.

With the roster he has before him for this incoming season, he should have a good year at Baylor before he is replaced next season. Of course, there is always the possibility that he does well enough to stay on staff after this season. For that to happen, most likely Baylor will need to reach and win a bowl game this season.

If his season is anything like Baylor's history with first-year coaches, he will struggle to succeed during his first year. In Baylor's long history of college football, first-year coaches had an overall record of 94-121 between 25 coaches that Baylor has seen in its lifetime according to stats at sports-reference.com and the "ESPN College Football Encyclopedia: The Complete

History of the Game".

It will take some time for the players to adjust to the new system Grobe brings to this campus. For the first half of the season, look to see a ton of ups and downs from this team. However, once the second half of the season rolls around, the Bears will definitely pick it up and will realize what needs to be done to win under his system.

Jim Grobe should win at least eight games this season and will lead the green and gold into another bowl game once again this season.

The Bears kick off action at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2, at McLane Stadium against Northwestern State.

Bears take their talents to the NFL

JORDAN SMITH
Sports Writer

Every year, a group of players decide to further their football career and go to the NFL Draft, in hopes that one of the 32 NFL teams will recognize their talents and give them the opportunity to showcase them on the big stage: the NFL. This year was no exception.

In the 2016 NFL Draft, six Bears were drafted, most of whom were drafted from the fourth round and on. The football players who were drafted are wide receiver Corey Coleman, cornerback Xavien Howard, nose tackle Andrew Billings, offensive guard Spencer Drango, long snapper Jimmy Landes and tight end Rico Gathers. According to the nfl, the last time six players from Baylor was in 1987. There has been four different draft classes since 1987 where five players have been drafted in that year (1992, 1996, 2012 and 2014).

Coleman and Drango

both headed to the Cleveland Browns. While at Baylor, Coleman recorded 33 touchdowns in three years at Baylor, as well as 3,009 receiving yards during that span. He also won the Fred Biletnikoff Award for best wide receiver in college football. The Browns already have two former Bears on their roster: wide receiver Josh Gordon and quarterback Robert Griffin III. This bit of familiarity may help them as they transition to the new style of play in the NFL.

Howard, who was drafted by the Miami Dolphins, and Billings, drafted by the Cincinnati Bengals, do not have the benefit of having former Bears on the rosters they were drafted onto.

Howard, in his three years at Baylor, had a total of 84 tackles, 10 interceptions and 23 passes deflected. Billings had 58 solo tackles, 7.5 sacks and two forced fumbles recorded in his three years at Baylor.

Landes, who appeared

in 40 games during his four years, went to the Detroit Lions. His stats included one tackle and one fumble recovery. Adding Landes as a long snapper will get him in on special teams, so his playing time will be limited. However, he does have a former Bear on the team: wide receiver Jay Lee. Landes should be fine with playing time, but the hard part will be the learning the process of going from college special teams to the pro style special teams.

Unlike the others, Gathers was a college basketball star for the Bears and didn't once play football while at Baylor. He does have a teammate, Terrance Williams, who was a former Bear and wide receiver. Gathers played football while in high school but stopped playing when he got to college in order to pursue basketball.



Lariat File Art

A record six Baylor Bears were drafted in this past spring's NFL Draft. Corey Coleman, above, was drafted #15 to the Cleveland Browns.

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Courtesy of Baylor Athletics

GOLDEN HERO Incoming freshman Lauren Cox won the gold medal at the 2016 FIBA American U18 Championships this past July. She will play for the Lady Bears in the fall.

Lauren Cox: Freshman Lady Bear strikes gold

NATE KEIL
Sports Writer

Landing some of the top recruits in the country is not unfamiliar territory to women's basketball Head Coach Kim. In fact, the passion she emits and the team's success on the court helps bring top recruits to Baylor. However, it is never any less exciting when she lands one of the nation's top recruits. In this case, 6'4", McDonald's All-American Lauren Cox.

Mulkey recalls when she found out the news while Cox was in the middle of her photo shoot as a part of her official visit to Baylor.

"I went down there, and Lauren's mom and dad jumped in the photo, and they asked me to jump in there, too. Then, when Lauren told me she was committing, I was stunned," Mulkey said in an ESPN interview.

As Lauren Cox begins her career in the Baylor green and gold in November, it marks a new era in her young and promising career, as well as a nod of respect to Mulkey and her program.

This will not be the first time Cox will dawn the color gold across her chest. In fact, it almost seems second nature to her, as she recently returned from Valdivia, Chile, after winning the gold medal at the 2016 FIBA America U18 Championships. This latest victory marks her fourth gold medal for Team USA in recent world competition. She previously won gold at the 2015 U19 World Championships in Russia, 2014 U17 World Championships in the Czech Republic and the 2013 U16 FIBA Americas in Mexico.

Although she is a seasoned veteran in international tournaments, each experience is different and something that Cox knows not to take for granted.

"It's always a really great experience, getting to represent my country and wear USA across my chest, and it's a great feeling to win gold," Cox said.

Not only has Cox been able to display her patriotism and represent Team USA the past four summers, but she has also played for various coaches and with other top recruits entering the college game today, each offering her fresh, innovative perspectives on how to continue to grow and flourish on the court.

"It teaches me to be more coachable because there have been different coaches every year, so you have to adjust to their coaching style, and also getting to play with different people every year, it's taught me to adjust with them," Cox said.

Cox has found an incredible amount of success on the international level at such a young age. She learned valuable lessons about herself and about the game through her experiences.

"International play is a lot more physical," Cox said. "They're a lot bigger; the refs really let you play. You get stronger, and you learn a lot from that."

She plans to use this experience and success as she now transitions into Big 12 basketball and Mulkey's system at Baylor.

Cox will have her work cut out for her entering her freshman year, as Baylor is only losing one starter from a team that went to the Elite Eight in March.

"It's one of my goals to start playing my freshman year, so I've really been working hard, and we have some really good post players on this team, so I'm really going to have to work hard this pre-season. But I'm really looking forward to it," Cox said. "I think we're going to have a really good team next year. We have some good seniors to lead us, as well as some really good returners, so I'm excited about that."

Learning to embrace challenges and face adversity head-on is part of the process of competing at the highest level. Cox is not one to back down from a challenge, having defeated a tough Russian team in its backyard last summer. It begins by developing a relentless work ethic on and off the court and recognizing strengths and how to fit into a team's system.

Cox certainly knows her strengths and believes she can contribute to this Baylor team. In Chile, she found herself playing both the forward and center position, showing her ability to impact the game from both spots.

"A lot of my points came in transition, running the floor and grabbing offensive rebounds," Cox said.

In a semifinal matchup with Brazil, Cox's size and versatility were on full display.

"Having Lauren Cox back was huge for us with their size inside. She challenged shots, rebounded and had a presence on the block," said USA Head Coach Suzie McConnell-Serio in an interview with USA Basketball.

Cox led the USA in both scoring and rebounding this summer at 13.0 points and 10.3 rebounds. Her ability to score and rebound from multiple positions, as well as her leadership, will be great assets for the Lady Bears this season.

Cox and the Lady Bears begin their season with an exhibition against Emporia State on Nov. 1 at the Ferrell Center.



Courtesy of Baylor Athletics

ALL SMILES Cox, from Flower Mound, TX., one of the nation's top basketball recruits, shows off her trophies.

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New Year: McGuyre has high hopes for volleyball program

MEGHAN MITCHELL
Sports Editor

With nine returners and eight newcomers to the program, the Baylor volleyball team looks to hold onto the momentum it had as during the off season as competition rolls around.

"We feel really good. I'm really confident in how we are doing this year," said junior outside hitter Katie Staiger. "Everyone is really coming together and working hard."

Coming off a 17-13 season under head coach Ryan McGuyre, the Lady Bears look to improve as they head into their first tournament.

"They have really impressed from day one," McGuyre said. "It's really a goal for us to be one team, to be one, to be like-minded. We are really finding our rhythm despite some injuries that have set us back a little."

With the addition of assistant coach Jason Williams, McGuyre believes that his ability and experience coaching will be a great asset for the Lady Bears.

"Jason has been a phenomenal addition. He is a big part of why we improved so much. He is one of the best trainers in the country. He communicates to the girls in a way so that

they can improve. He is like-minded in how he sees the game. He's very relatable, easy to talk to. I think he is spot-on."

To Staiger's surprise, the team has been able to join together and grow stronger despite having many newcomers on the team and senior middle hitter Tola Itiola out with a knee injury.

"Tola is huge; she's awesome. Luckily, she shouldn't be out too long, so we should have her back for the majority of the season. But while it does stink, we have people who can step up and are getting a lot of playing time and doing well," Staiger said.

With the upperclassmen stepping up and the newcomers bringing a wave of energy, McGuyre said he has high expectations for his team.

"They have been phenomenal since May 30 when all the girls got here," McGuyre said. "I think we are looking forward to see the joy that's going to come from playing the right way and the anticipation of what that might produce."

The Lady Bears begin their season on Friday at the Ferrell Center, where they will play University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in the first round of the Baylor Invitational.



Robbie Rogers | Baylor Photographer

NEW ADDITION Mack Rhoades, Baylor University's new athletic director, speaks at a press conference.

Mack Rhoades: Ready to restore stability to the athletic department

MEGHAN MITCHELL
Sports Editor

Interim Baylor University President Dr. David Garland introduced Mack Rhoades as the new athletic director on July 18, during the first day of the Big 12 media day at the Omni Hotel in Dallas.

"There are just certain things that we won't tolerate, and moving forward, you know, everybody will be on that same page," Rhoades said. "And when I say everybody, that's the university, that's the athletics department, that's our coaches, our student-athletes. Everyone."

Amid sexual allegation charges against the university and the resignation of former Athletic Director Ian McCaw, a hole was left in the program's future. However, Rhoades said he is not afraid to discuss the issues surrounding Baylor and is determined to become a positive influence for the university.

"Sexual violence is a topic throughout our country, and it certainly happens on other campuses, and this is an opportunity for Baylor University, and certainly the athletics department, to be a leader in how we deal and handle sexual violence," Rhoades

said. "I've got three unbelievably beautiful daughters that I love, and if you ask what's your motivation, there's my motivation."

Rhoades came to Baylor with experience under his belt. He served as athletic director at the University of Houston for six years, University of Akron for four and, most recently at the University of Missouri for 15 months before deciding to make the move to Baylor.

"Much has been written about my motivations for coming to Waco. Let me be clear: This is an opportunity," Rhoades said. "An opportunity to help lead one of the world's leading Christian universities in our familiar Texas, a state where we came to love many, many years ago. A state where my grandfather, my hero, was born and raised."

According to Garland, Rhoades is the person needed to help get the university back on track.

"I'm confident that he's going to build the kind of partnerships that we need to make the improvements that Baylor is committed to make," Garland said. "Mack is a man of faith, and he believes in and is excited about the mission of Baylor University that is 170 years old."



Liesje Powers | Photo Editor

SETTING THE STANDARD The Lady Bears are in full swing at practice Thursday. The Lady Bears look to improve on their 17-13 record from last season.

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Taking their talent abroad

Baylor soccer ventures throughout Germany

NATE KEIL
Sports Writer

It isn't every day that an opportunity to travel and further athletic training in Germany falls into someone's lap. However, that is exactly the opportunity that presented itself to the Lady Bears soccer team this past June. As they boarded their flight, they sought ways to build on the success of their second-place finish in the Big 12 a year ago.

Their 10-day trip took them all across Germany where they experienced the culture, religion and history of Frankfurt, Munich, and Heidelberg. They even ventured to Salzburg, Austria, for a day. As rewarding as the travel and experiences were, the team used this opportunity to further develop team chemistry that can improve their competitive edge on the field.

"Soccer was the core heart of it," said senior midfielder Bridget Hamway. "But it was way more than that, and I think a lot of it was that we spent so much time together exclusively just us, the team, in a new environment and get to build off-the-field relationships, which is essential for on-the-field performance."

The trip provided ample opportunity to work on aspects of players' own personal game as well as team components and relationship building. They had the privilege of training with some of the best teams across Germany, including the German Cup champions.

"Getting to see how the sport is played in another



Courtesy of Baylor Soccer

LEARNING ABROAD Lady Bears journey through Germany to train and learn about other cultures. They take a picture at Allianz Arena, home to FC Bayern Munich.

country and another continent was beneficial because we got to see how their training worked, and seeing how their training worked pointed to where we thought we could grow," Hamway said.

The trip originated out of the kindness and generosity of Baylor alum, Nancy and John Jackson, who accompanied the team on every leg of their journey through Germany. Although they have no ties to the Baylor soccer program,

the Jacksons attended a donor dinner at the opening of the Williams Center and were so enchanted by the character and culture of the Baylor soccer team that they wanted to be involved in some way, whether through donations or giving advice.

The Jacksons attitude pushed Baylor's players to look inward, reflect on the opportunities they have been given and continue to dedicate themselves to working hard

every day.

"Seeing how gracious the Jacksons were in giving us this trip, I was personally inspired to continue to work at what we do at Baylor in terms of soccer, our faith and friendship. Seeing that others are supporting us helps contribute to our success," said junior forward Precious Akanyirige.

As the season approaches, the team is hard at work. They hope to use their the training they got in Germany

to propel them to success on the field. Their outlook and confidence are at an all-time high after seeing how sharp and competitive they were in Germany, but the first step towards mirroring this success begins by acclimating the incoming freshmen to the Baylor.

"They're a great group on and off the field. We need to work to bring them into the system and work them into our chemistry. I think, then,

we can do great things this season again," Akanyirige said.

Talent, experience, leadership and confidence: the pieces are all in place for the Baylor soccer team. It now rests on the shoulders of execution. Regardless of the outcome, the spirit of Baylor soccer is alive and thriving.

"Whatever happens any given day, we are just going to come up, show up and do what we do best," Hamway said. "I think that's the mentality."

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9 a.m. Enjoy fellowship and a free breakfast on the steps of Waco Hall.

It's On US BU New Student Event

7 p.m. This required training event for incoming freshmen and transfer students will provide valuable information about the Title IX office and resources available on campus, as well as equip students with bystander intervention tools. Event in Ferrell Center.

Tuesday, Aug. 23

Dr Pepper Hour

3 p.m. Take part in the Baylor tradition and enjoy a refreshing Dr Pepper float in Barfield Drawing Room, 2nd floor, Bill Daniel Student Center.

Wednesday, Aug. 24

Mosaic Mixer

6:30 p.m. Meet representatives from student organizations and enjoy free food, a live DJ and outdoor games, hosted by Multicultural Affairs, in the Vara Martin Daniel Plaza.

Thursday, Aug. 25

Black Student Welcome

6 p.m. Rekindle old friendships and make new connections at the NAACP-hosted reception in Barfield Drawing Room, 2nd floor, Bill Daniel Student Center.

Out-of-State Mixer

6 p.m. Connect with others from at a reception for out-of-state students in rooms 143/144, Paul L. Foster Campus for Business and Innovation.

Friday, Aug. 26

Transfer Student Mixer

7 p.m. Share experiences and find new friends at a reception for transfer students in rooms 143/144, Paul L. Foster Campus for Business and Innovation.

Late Night

9 p.m. – Midnight. Meet student leaders from more than 225 student organizations and learn about the many opportunities for campus involvement. Activities featuring live music, games, exhibitions, food and drinks, prizes and more will be held at McLane Student Life Center, Russell Gymnasium, Bobo Spiritual Life Center, Moody Library and Bill Daniel Student Center.

Saturday, Aug. 27

New Student Retreat

All day. Experience a fantastic opportunity to meet other new students, learn how to get involved on campus, and connect with God in your new community at Camp Buckner. Learn more and register at baylor.edu/spirituallife.

Monday, Aug. 29

Football Ticket Reservations

5 p.m. Baylor students can reserve football tickets for the first home game online at baylor.edu/student/gameday.

Movie Mondays at the Hippodrome

7 p.m. Join the campus community at the Hippodrome to watch a screening of *Sonic Sea*, a documentary about the devastating impact of industrial and military ocean noise on whales and other marine life. Admission is free; tickets are required and can be picked up at the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Thursday, Sept. 1

Chalk Talk

12:30 p.m. Held every Thursday before a home football game; join Baylor football players, coaches and fans for free food and a breakdown of each week's game, in the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Traditions Rally

5:30 p.m. Celebrate Baylor's rich athletic and spirit traditions with a live concert by Aloe Blacc in Fountain Mall. Concessions available. Activities begin at 5:30 p.m. with a student tailgate followed at 7:30 p.m. with a pep rally and 8 p.m. with Aloe Blacc in concert and fireworks. Complete schedule at baylor.edu/traditionsrally.



Friday, Sept. 2

Remembering Our Hope

1:30 p.m. Explore how friendship can enrich community and cultivate virtues with a panel discussion, "Companions in Hope: Why Community is Good but Friendship is Better," hosted by Darin Davis, vice president for University Missions, in Roxy Grove Hall.

3 p.m. A vespers and music service featuring Baylor students.

Gameday: Baylor vs. Northwestern State

3 p.m. University Parks will close to automobile traffic.

3:30 p.m. Gather with the Baylor community as Touchdown Ally, the Student Organization Tailgate and the Baylor Alumni Network Tailgate open.

4 p.m. Bear Walk. Cheer on the Bears as they arrive for the game and enter McLane Stadium.

4:30 p.m. Enjoy a live concert from Gin Blossoms on the South Plaza.

5 p.m. McLane Stadium gates open.

6:30 p.m. Kickoff. Sic 'em Bears!

Saturday, Sept. 3

Brazos River Float

2:00 p.m. This student-only welcome home event hosted by the Greater Waco Chamber offers free food, games and a tube-based float fest on the Brazos River. Bring your Baylor ID to join the fun. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. at Indian Spring Park, downtown Waco.

Monday, Sept. 5

Movie Night at McLane

8:00 p.m. Bring your blanket and your friends for a free showing of *Captain America: Civil War* on the big screen at McLane Stadium.

For more, join Baylor Connect at
baylor.edu/baylorconnect

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