Mulkey captures 19th conference title in 19th season as head coach

BEN EVERETT
Sports Editor

With a Big 12 title-clinching win over Kansas on Wednesday, Baylor women’s basketball head coach Kim Mulkey notched her 19th Big 12 Conference championship in her 19th season as a head coach.

Mulkey has won at least a share of 10 Big 12 regular season championships, including nine straight. The next highest mark belongs to Oklahoma, which has claimed the regular season crown six times.

The Lady Bears won their first Big 12 regular season championship in 2005 – the same season Baylor also won the Big 12 Tournament and the program’s first-ever National Championship.

Each year since 2011, the Big 12 regular season trophy has called Waco its home. The Lady Bears have won outright in each year of the streak except 2014, when Baylor shared the title with West Virginia.

Mulkey and the Lady Bears have won nine Big 12 Tournament titles – far more than any other school in the conference. The Lady Bears captured their first title in 2005 and have won eight out of the last 10 Big 12 Tournaments.

Mulkey has guided Baylor to its only two National Championships. The first came in 2005 and the second in 2012, when the Lady Bears finished the season with a remarkable 40-0 record.

During Mulkey’s tenure, the Lady Bears have gone 563-99 for an 85 percent win rate.

Baylor is led by senior center Kalani Brown, senior guard Chloe Jackson and junior forward Lauren Cox.

Brown was named Preseason Big 12 Player of the Year and Preseason All-Big 12 First Team. Jackson is one of 35 women’s basketball student-athletes named to the Naismith Trophy watch list.

Brown leads the Big 12 in field goal percentage, shooting almost 64 percent from the floor this season. She also tops the Lady Bears with 15.9 points and 7.5 rebounds per game.

Jackson, a graduate transfer from LSU, slid into the point guard slot for the Lady Bears and has put up 11.1 points and 6.3 assists per game this season.

Cox leads the Lady Bears in scoring, averaging 21.6 points per game, while also putting up 7.5 rebounds per contest.

The Lady Bears have a road game against Iowa State on Saturday before returning home for games against Texas and Oklahoma State. Baylor finishes the regular season on the road at West Virginia on March 4.
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No. 1-ranked Baylor women’s basketball won a share of the Big 12 title with a win over Kansas on Wednesday.

With four games remaining in the regular season, the Lady Bears will look to complete conference play with an 18-0 record for just the fourth time in Big 12 history – all of which have come from Baylor.

The Lady Bears started the season ranked No. 4 in the nation, but since have risen to the No. 1 spot for the first time since 2013.

Baylor started the season 8-0 with wins over No. 23 Arizona State and No. 18 South Carolina. A matchup at No. 11 Stanford saw Baylor fall for the only time this season.

The Lady Bears retooled with a 68-57 upset of then-No. 1 ranked UConn on Jan. 3. The win snapped the Huskies’ 126-game regular season win streak.

Baylor is led by senior center Kalani Brown, senior guard Chloe Jackson and junior forward Lauren Cox.

Brown was named Preseason Big 12 Player of the Year and Preseason All-Big 12 First Team. Coming into Wednesday’s game, Brown leads the Big 12 in field goal percentages, shooting almost 64 percent from the field this season. She also tops the Lady Bears with 15.9 points and 7.5 rebounds per game.

Jackson, a graduate transfer from LSU, slid into the point guard slot for the Lady Bears and has put up 11.1 points and 6.3 assists per game this season.

Cox leads the Lady Bears in blocks, swatting away 2.4 shots per game, while also putting up 11.1 points and 6.3 assists per game this season.

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