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Brittney Griner celebrates Monday after beating Duke 51-48 in the NCAA Memphis Regional championship college basketball game in Memphis, Tenn. The Lady Bears advance on to the Final Four with the win.

■ Making it Final

BU claims last-minute Elite 8 win

Lady Bears clinch spot in Final Four beating Duke 51-48; With 33 blocks, Griner sets NCAA blocked-shot record

BY CHRIS DERRETT
SPORTS WRITER

MEMPHIS, TENN. — In their fight for a spot in the Final Four, the Lady Bears held the lead over Duke for 45 seconds of the second half. It was all they needed, as a seemingly miraculous 51-48 comeback win punched Baylor’s ticket for San Antonio.

Brittney Griner scored the last of her 15 points with 45 seconds left, spinning and flipping the ball in for a 49-48 Baylor lead. The Blue Devils missed a 3-pointer on its next possession, and Melissa Jones sank two free throws on the Lady Bears’ end after an intentional foul. Duke’s last desperation 3-pointer did not fall, and Kelli Griffin dribbled the clock out to end the game.

“I knew I had to get the ball in the basket. I tried to get as close to the rim as I could, and

make sure it went in,” Griner said.

Baylor faced a 48-42 deficit with 3:47 remaining, and with its sub-35 percent shooting on the night, the future appeared bleak. It looked worse when a Griner block became an offensive rebound for the Blue Devils, who finished with 19 offensive boards. But Duke could not convert and push the lead further.

Griner then fought for two free throws on the other end, fouling out 6-foot-4 Krystal Thomas in the process. Kimetria Hayden later drew two more driving to the rim and hit both. On the next Duke inbound play, Hayden stepped up to make what coach Kim Mulkey considered the game-changing play.

“In the last timeout, we lost a big offensive rebound,” Mulkey said about being unable to rebound Griner’s blocked ball. “I told those two freshmen (Hayden

and Jordan Madden), remember that offensive rebound because it might have just cost you the game. And dang, if the one kid doesn’t come back and make the play of the game.”

Hayden lunged at Joy Cheek’s inbound pass and snatched it away from the Blue Devils. She found Jones open under the basket, and Jones nailed a one-foot jumper, pulling Baylor to within one. Jasmine Thomas missed a 3-pointer for Duke, and Griffin hauled in the rebound to set up Griner’s game-winner.

After cutting down the nets, Mulkey still could not believe that her team was Final Four bound.

“It was surreal,” Mulkey said. “I get to coach kids who believe in what we do. They allow me to get on them, they allow me to challenge them, and

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No. 1 Duke ends Bears’ run

Bears win record 28 games in season; Lomers, Carter play last Baylor game

BY JUSTIN BAER
SPORTS EDITOR

HOUSTON — What has been one of the Bears’ most notable advantages this year became a substantial downfall in a season-ending 78-71 defeat against top-seeded Duke University Sunday evening in the NCAA tournament South Regional finals at Reliant Stadium in Houston.

Duke capitalized on second-chance opportunities and grabbed 23 offensive rebounds that led to 23 points, many of which came in critical situations. Baylor entered the game with a plus-6.6 rebound margin, good for 12th in the nation,

With Baylor up 57-54 and 5:44 remaining on the clock, Scheyer drilled a wide-open 3-point basket to tie the game. From there, Smith hit two second-chance 3-pointers, the latter of which came from his own missed free throw rebounded by Thomas. The four-point possession gave Duke a 64-61 lead, and on the

“The toughest part of every season is always just the thought that it’s the last time you’re going to get a chance to coach the team, and the last chance they’re together.”

Scott Drew
Baylor head coach

but against a physical Duke frontline, the Bears were out-rebounded 43-37.

“I mean, they just went after it. I can’t really explain it,” junior Ekpe Udoh said. “I don’t know. We just couldn’t keep them off the glass.”

Nolan Smith and Jon Scheyer became the beneficiary of many of those offensive rebounds, as players like Lance Thomas (eight offensive rebounds) and Brian Zoubek (four offensive rebounds) often found the duo behind the 3-point line after retrieving boards. Smith, who was named the region’s most outstanding player, finished with a game-high 29 points, while Scheyer contributed 20 points. Together, the guards made nine of 16 3-point baskets.

“(Give) credit to them. They came out, and they executed well,” senior point guard Tweety Carter said. “They got kickouts to great shooters. You know, it’s tough when you’re playing defense for 30 seconds and they get a kickout three. You know, they made big shots.”

ensuing drive, Scheyer splashed a 3-pointer to extend the Blue Devils’ lead, 67-61.

“We needed to defend well and make shots (down the stretch),” said Quincy Acy, who finished with 12 points. “Scheyer got open off offensive rebounds and kickouts, and we should’ve put bodies on him. We got outrebounded on the offensive glass, so that was the major key.”

After Udoh made one of two free throws, the Blue Devils got another 3-point possession, this time from Thomas’ and-1 put-back that gave Duke a 70-62 lead with 1:36 remaining.

A technical foul on Acy sent Scheyer to the free-throw line, and his two charity shots gave Duke its biggest lead of the game at 10 points. The Bears fought valiantly until the buzzer sounded, but the late Blue Devil spurt was too overwhelming to

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DANIEL CERNERO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



BAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHY | MATTHEW MINARD

Top: The Baylor men’s basketball team huddles Sunday after No. 50 center Josh Lomers picked up his fifth foul at Reliant Stadium in Houston. Lomers finished his collegiate career as a member of the winningest senior class in Baylor’s history.

Left: Former President George H.W. Bush and Baylor President-elect Ken Starr chat together Sunday at Baylor’s game against Duke in their NCAA Elite 8 basketball game at Reliant Stadium in Houston.



Thankful for sacrifices as season of chemistry, hope comes to an end

Editorial

Emotion reflected on court

Point of View



By OLGA BALL

It's no secret that I like basketball. My father and I would watch basketball together every night from the time we moved to the United States. My dad attributes his knowledge of the English language to watching NBA games.

As a 10-year-old, I once sleepwalked into my parents' room at 2 a.m., asking my father to come downstairs and watch a game with me.

However, my favorite part about watching basketball is not the amazing half-court shots, (though I have been known to jump and scream when an impressive shot is made) or the last game in a seven-game series coming down to the last second, (though my dad and I did run out on the balcony in our hotel room in Hawaii screaming "Go Lakers!" after the Sacramento Kings and Los Angeles Lakers series came to a dramatic end).

My favorite part about the basketball games is watching the facial expressions of the players — Kobe Bryant sticking his tongue out as he makes another three, Quincy Acy's excited screams as he dunks the ball over an opponent, the player who cries as the opposing team's final shot ends his college basketball career. Those moments in basketball make the game much more genuine; they tell the story of people who truly love the game.

A lot of people are afraid to show their true emotions, but these men let it all out. The looks of frustration when one misses a free throw, the appreciation for their teammates when they make an incredible basket — every emotion is out there in the open for people to witness.

Often, unlike these players, we try to hide our emotions; we put on a mask so that everyone thinks that everything is OK.

We are afraid to show that we are happy for fear that people will not take us seriously.

However, if we hide our feelings, people don't get to know who we truly are.

If we lose a game in the tournament of life, it's OK to show disappointment. If we accomplish a difficult task, it's OK to show your excitement to others. Whether you're on a basketball court, classroom or office, it's OK to show your emotion. Show you love life the way the basketball players show they love the game. After all, it's what makes us human.

Olga Ball is a Plano junior majoring in political science and journalism. She is the copy desk chief for the Baylor Lariat.

Who would have thought that after losing three 1,000-point scorers (Curtis Jerrells, Kevin Rogers and Henry Dugat) the Bears would be standing toe-to-toe with nationally acclaimed Duke University for a chance to play in the Final Four?

Not the Big 12 coaches. They predicted Baylor to finish 10th in the conference, which wouldn't even qualify for an NIT bid.

Certainly not the media; many tabbed this season as a "rebuilding year." The fans even fretted how Baylor could survive the Big 12 schedule, which included teams like Texas, Kansas and Kansas State.

But one group was convinced all along that Scott Drew and the Bears had talent capable of making a deep tournament run — the team itself.

"We are going to come out and play. I don't buy into numbers, never did, never will," senior guard Twenty Carter said on media day in October. "It is something to push you forward in practice. We are just going to come out and play the game, and it is going to take care of itself."

Carter was the unequivocal leader of this team. Coming to Baylor as the program's first McDonald's All-American, he shared the spotlight with a bevy of guards, including Jerrells, Dugat and Aaron Bruce. But when all three were departed by last summer, Carter immediately took over.

Throughout grueling workouts during the summer, the team became brothers. Their chemistry was exemplified on the court. Carter's

alley-oop passes were messaged by a simple glance to players like LaceDarius Dunn and Quincy Acy. Josh Lomers' screens were at the perfect time.

The players became selfless in adapting their own niches. Because of that, the Bears exceeded all expectations placed on them.

"Guys that want to be a part of something special and put them-

the Bears didn't play a non-conference schedule because of violations committed during the Davis Bliss era.

So entering as freshmen, Carter and Lomers knew the only direction this program could go was up.

"Baylor was a perfect opportunity to come here and be a part of something special, and I think that's one of the reasons why I

"From the Lariat, the students, the alumni and fans, we thank you for the fantastic memories, Bears. We will never forget the historic journey you blessed us with."

selfs away for a while and focus on us and the team. Not just thinking about I," Carter said during the tournament. "I know that this team is the reason why we're where we're at right now. "

Along with the four seniors from the 2009 class, Carter and Lomers were pioneers for the Baylor basketball program. The two seniors from this year's squad took a gargantuan risk entering the program in the state it was.

Their senior year of high school,

came here," Carter said.

Carter helped recruit players to surround him and build a talented squad.

Dunn, the Bears' leading scorer, credits the fellow Louisiana native as one of the main reasons he came to Baylor.

"Before I got here we used to talk, and he really is one of the reasons why I really came, because I knew him back from high school," Dunn said. "So I just really would love to play with him, so I'm happy

to be part of this program."

While Carter helped bring a lot of Baylor's current roster to this team, the lasting impact he and Lomers brought were their determination and heart.

The two seniors were hungry to launch this program into elite company, and by the dedication exhibited, have placed the Bears en route to a powerhouse program.

Carter often took over games offensively when his teammates were struggling, as he did when Baylor defeated Texas for the first time on the road in 12 years by scoring a game-high 27 points.

With a stellar performance in the second round of the NCAA tournament against Old Dominion University, Lomers' strength and desire contributed to several critical offensive putbacks in the closing minutes to propel Baylor to the Sweet 16.

The two undoubtedly were key to helping revitalize the program as they leave as the most-winning class in program history (88 wins) — accentuated by a school-record 28 victories in their senior season.

"I can't put it into words what they've done for the school, what they've done for the team, what they've done for the program," Drew said after Sunday's loss.

"To see they're both going to graduate, both have grown spiritually. That's what college athletics is about."

From the Lariat, the students, the alumni and fans, we thank you for the fantastic memories, Bears.

We will never forget the historic journey you blessed us with.



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Please Recycle This Issue

Students go to D.C., tackle collegiate financial aid

By CATY HIRST
STAFF WRITER

Student representatives' lobbying experience in Washington, D.C., at Big XII on the Hill last week may have long-lasting effects for Baylor students.

Baylor students specifically supported the Make College Affordable Act of 2009, which supports tax deductions for higher education expenses and interest on student loans.

These expenses include tuition and some living costs.

Jordan Hannah, student body president, said the Baylor representatives talked with congressmen about specific issues.

"Depending on where that congressman sat in Congress, as far as committees, and as far as seniority and experience, [we] sort of [tailored] the message to that," Hannah said. "We actually met with the chair of the higher education sub-committee personally on Thursday, Congressman Rubén Hinojosa. We were trying to rally support for higher education and increase financial aid to all college students, and [increase] research funding because each of our schools had a large research component to what we did."

Hannah said they specifically talked about the BRIC (Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative) to Texas legislators.

"Trying to make sure the federal government supports higher education research, especially a lot of the emphasis now is on science technology," Hannah said. "And so we told them about the



COURTESY PHOTO

Baylor student representatives Jordan Hannah, Logan Snow, Katie Jo Baumgardner, DaNae Couch and Paul Baumgardner stand in front of the Capital as they wait in between meetings at Big XII on the Hill.

BRIC that was announced in the fall and how that will greatly benefit our engineering students."

Dr. Kevin Jackson, vice-president of student life, said student representatives achieved take-home accomplishments while they were in D.C.

Most especially, Jackson said Baylor students tend to make good impressions on the legisla-

tors they come into contact with.

"At the university we work very hard with our legislators at the national level and the state level," Jackson said. "My experience has been whenever we have our student leaders in front of legislators, they really get an opportunity to see the high-quality students that we have at Baylor."

Other representatives from

Baylor talked to members of Congress and staffers as well.

Katie Jo Baumgardner, legislative relations director, student senator and a Baylor ambassador, met with Rep. Mike Conaway, R-Texas and Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas.

"We had five or six meetings each day," Baumgardner said. "We met specifically with con-

gressional offices because it was a House resolution, so we met with House representatives and their staffers."

Hannah said they brought up the issue of student loans to representatives.

Financial aid at Baylor is student government's main focus for this year, because of student concerns.

"They also talked about the whole need for the student loan program being vital to the area of education," Jackson said. "[Hannah] talked about how a number of students here at Baylor receive financial aid. The last number I saw on that was over 80 percent of our students receive financial aid in some form or fashion."

While Hannah has not heard from Baylor administrators about how their experience in Washington will affect financial aid at Baylor, he said student government is putting together a report for administrators to look through about their accomplishments in Washington.

Overall, Hannah said the legislators were receptive.

"We just had to bring figures to them and tell them this is how students are being affected," Hannah said. "We brought a lot of facts and figures to the table."

"I think most of them were very sympathetic to the argument and understood that higher education is a very important piece to our nation's well being and our nation's future and all are very supportive of higher education," Hannah said. "That just takes different forms based on their politi-

cal views and, along some lines, party views."

Jackson was impressed with the number of contacts the Baylor students were able to make.

"They were also able to meet with alumni in the Washington area and talk to them and make those contacts," Jackson said. "And interact with other key student leaders from across the Big XII, as the student voice was provided to legislators in Washington."

Hannah and the other representatives planned an alumni dinner. The dinner included several young Baylor alumni in Washington, D.C.

Hannah said one of the things that made this trip successful was the experience of the Baylor representatives.

Baumgardner, a previous participant of Big XII on the Hill, and Hannah are both optimistic about their success in Washington.

Hannah said the majority of the students had previous lobbying experience, which prepared them for the event.

Baumgardner is also excited because she believes next year's Big XII on the Hill will also be a success.

This year, Baylor sent two seniors, two juniors and a sophomore to Big XII on the Hill.

"We had a good mix of people," Baumgardner said. "We are really putting together a program that is sustainable. In the future, we will be able to send people with experience, which is very important for putting together a program that is meaningful."

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The team huddles before warming up for their Elite Eight matchup against the No. 1-seed Duke Blue Devils Sunday at Reliant Stadium in Houston.



Senior No. 45 guard Tweety Carter leaves the court for the last time in a Baylor uniform following the Bears' 78-71 loss to No. 1-seed Duke.



Senior No. 45 guard Tweety Carter shows his emotion to the crowd following a time-out called by the No. 1-seed Duke Blue Devils. Carter scored 12 points in his last game as a Baylor Bear.

Baylor Nation

Photos By Daniel Cernero | Staff Photographer



Baylor fans in the student section show their support for the Bears Sunday at Reliant Stadium in Houston. 47, 492 people were at Reliant Stadium, most of whom were dress in green and gold.

A Season to Remember



Top: No. 13 forward Ekpe Udoh goes up for the block on Duke No. 55 center Brian Zoubek Sunday at Reliant Stadium in Houston. Udoh added five blocks to go along with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Above: No. 24 guard LaceDarius Dunn takes it hard to the basket, dribbling around Duke No. 21 forward Miles Plumlee Sunday at Reliant Stadium in Houston. Dunn finished the game with 22 points.

Right: A Baylor fan shows her support of the Bears by holding up a homemade sign Sunday at Reliant Stadium in Houston.



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they never quit playing."
For senior Morghan Medlock, who sat on the bench nauseated for much of the game, taking her piece of the net was a dream come true.
"I can't believe it. These kids came through in the clutch, when nothing was going our way. It's a great feeling right now," Medlock said.
The teams began the half playing slow, ugly basketball. Duke failed to make any of its first nine shots, while Baylor was 2 of 7, getting both shots from Griner. A team averaging slightly more than 13.5 steals per game, Duke had one by the first half's mid-way point and totaled two in the first 20 minutes.
Griner scored 10 of Baylor's 21 first-half points and helped hinder Duke's offense with four blocks, not including the ball pressure that both altered shots and forced the Blue Devils away from the basket.
Her nine-block performance increased her tournament total to 33 and broke the record for most blocked shots in a single NCAA tournament.

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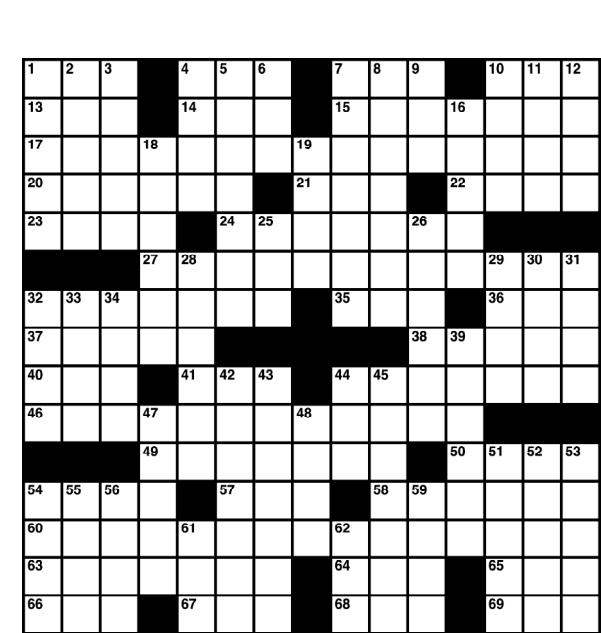


Baylor players celebrate after beating Duke 51-48 in the NCAA Memphis Regional championship college basketball game Monday, March 29, 2010, in Memphis, Tenn. Baylor advances on to the Final Four with the win.

BEARS from pg. 1
surmount.
"These are the hardest press conferences of the year always when you have to say goodbye to players that blessed you for their career and helped make your program," head coach Scott Drew said in reference to his two seniors, Carter and Josh Lomers.
The 47,492 fans in attendance, mostly Baylor supporters, watched the Bears take a 35-32 lead into the locker room.
Duke hit six 3-pointers in the first half, including three in a three-minute span that put the Blue Devils ahead 25-17.
But then the Bears amped up their defense, and stormed to a 10-2 run capped by Carter's 3-point basket to slice the lead 27-25.
Later, down 29-26, Lacey Darius Dunn grabbed the ball from Mason Plumlee and went the length of the floor for a dunk.
On the next Blue Devil possession, Anthony Jones deflected a pass and the Bears converted on the opposite end when Acy's shot was counted after goaltending.
After another defensive stop, Acy abused the rim with a monstrous dunk.
Then Acy made an impact on the defensive side of the ball, as his steal set up another Carter 3-pointer that gave the Bears a 35-29 lead and sent Reliant Stadium into eruption.
In the second half, Scheyer's early 3-pointer set what would become a ubiquitous tone for the half.
The two teams battled back-and-forth until the 17:28 mark, when the Bears went into a six-minute, 54-second slump where they missed eight consecutive field goals.
"You have to give credit to the Duke defense," said Dunn, who finished with 22 points. "They pressured us and really took us out of our comfort zone and allowed us not to run our offense, you know."
The Bears were down 51-47 after the slump, but two consecutive baskets by Carter and Udoh tied the game. Dunn gave the Bears a three-point lead when he converted two free throws, but Scheyer retaliated with a 3-point er.
The Bears had the game tied at 61-61 with 3:36 remaining, but the Blue Devils' conversions on second-chance plays caught up to Baylor, and proved to be the deciding factor in the game.
The buzzer concluded the historic careers of Carter and Lomers, who leave Baylor as the most winning class in school history, accentuated by a school-record 28 wins this season.
Carter finished with 12 points and four assists, while Lomers finished with four points.
"The toughest part of every season is always just the thought that it's the last time you're going to get a chance to coach the team, and the last chance they're together," Drew said.
"That's always the toughest, especially when it's been a real close team, and a team that obviously has done wonders for our program and school."

FUN TIMES

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