

Sports

Section B

Offense vs. Defense

Page 4 & 6 New speed and strength bolster a defensive unit aiming to pull Baylor up from low 2009 ranks.



Vol. 111 No. 1

And Then There Were 10

REALIGNMENT REWIND How Baylor's conference nearly perished

now Baylor's conference flearly perished

- Mid-May: Sources believe the Big Ten will invite Nebraska and Missouri.
- June 3: Orangebloods.com reports the Pac10 is ready to invite Texas and a "number of Big 12 schools."
- June 4: President Ken Starr e-mails "members of the Baylor family," voicing Big 12 support.
- June 6: The Baylor Proud team cites the Dallas Morning News, saying Baylor's "stock is rapidly rising" as Pac 10 talk continues.
- June 10: Colorado joins the Pac 10.
- June 10: The Baylor Proud team e-mails faculty and students with ways to help promote Baylor's reputation.
- June 10: Chet Edwards publishes his advising of Texas Legislature hearings regarding the Big 12's possible end.
- June 12: Nebraska signs on with the Big Ten.
- June 15: Texas elects to remain a Big 12 member, as do the other suspected Pac 10 invitees.



DANIEL CERNEDO I PLIOTO EDITO

President Ken Starr talks with students during the President's Picnic Thursday, August 19, 2010, in the Burleson Quadrangle. After almost seeing the Big 12 disintegrate this summer, Starr has encouraged support of the athletic program through public speaking and e-mails to the Baylor family.

Starr narrowly avoids Big 12 fall

Nebraska, Colorado leave conference while Baylor remains

> By Chris Derrett Sports editor

What started as speculation and found its way to Baylor students and staff through numerous e-mails finally came to a resting point in mid-June. Though Colorado and Nebraska will leave the Big 12 within the next one to two years, the 10 remaining Big 12 teams have agreed to stay together as a conference, much to the content of Baylor administration.

"The factors that we can control have to do with our culture, our culture supporting all of our athletic teams. We have a tremendously successful athletic program and our student athletes at every turn fill us with great pride," president Ken Starr said in an interview with the Lariat.

Until Texas' decision, an exodus of six Big 12 teams to the Pac 10 seemed imminent, enough so for ESPN.com's Joe Schad to report that statement in an article backed by four anonymous sources.

No formal, written agreement has been drafted or signed to legally bind the

remaining teams for any period of time. But once Texas, whom many believed would be the catalyst for the Big 12's extinction, decided to stay, Starr and much of the Baylor community took a collective sigh of relief.

Rumors, which included a May 10 Kansas City Star article, began swirling about Nebraska and Missouri receiving offers from the Big Ten, who was seeking financial opportunity and at least a 12th team to meet the NCAA's requirement for a football conference championship game.

Adding to the plot was the Pac 10, as numerous media outlets like ESPN.com and Orangebloods.com speculated the conference would invite six Big 12 teams following Nebraska's departure.

The day after Orangebloods.com published that report, Starr e-mailed "Members of the Baylor Family" regarding the situation.

"(Baylor athletics director Ian McCaw) and I have made our case clear: Baylor emphatically supports the Big 12 Conference and wants to see it prosper," the e-mail read

But at the time, the Big 12 looked all but finished, and Baylor began its campaign



DANIEL CERNERO I PHOTO EDIT

No. 10 quarterback Robert Griffin and No. 11 quarterback Nick Florence talk between plays at the Allison Indoor Facility. It appears both will finish their careers playing in a major conference.

for a Pac 10 invitation that included a new website dedicated to highlighting Baylor's strengths.

The Texas Legislature also involved itself in Baylor's attempts to earn a Pac 10 invitation.

"If you're going to have an exported commodity involved in this, do you think we're going to allow a school from outside the state of Texas to replace one of our schools in the Big 12 South?" said an unnamed, high-ranking Texas Legislature member to Orangebloods.com.

Colorado officially joined the Pac 10 on June 10. Among the Big 12 teams left, all rumors and analysis pointed to five teams - Baylor, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State and Missouri - being left to find other conferences as the Big 12 permanently split and the other six aforementioned teams bound for the Pac 10.

That same day Starr responded via another e-mail to faculty and students, noting some Texas Legislature members were still fighting to keep the Big 12 alive.

SEE BIG 12, page B7

Rejuvenated backfield runs around, through opponents

Finley, Salubi, Ganaway give Briles options on every down

> By Matt Larsen Sports editor

Three backs, two running styles, one goal: move the chains or find the end zone, whichever comes first.

Rounding out the bottom of the conference in total first downs last season and scoring only eight times amongst three backs, Baylor looks for a more productive ground attack from its three running backs this sea-

"We've got guys that can play. What we have to do is make sure we put them in a position to be successful," coach Art Briles said.

Briles added that the running game is not a cause for concern.

Eyes look first in the direction of Coming again. Law

tion of Corsicana senior Jay Finley, who two years ago led the team with 865 yards rushing off 149 carries and seven touchdowns.

The 5-foot-11,205-pound tailback looks to run past and around tacklers more than over them in his search for the end zone, but last season he found his ability limited by a high ankle sprain that he thinks is buried in the past.

"It's a little frustrating because I'd like to do more, but it's healing. It's on time," Finley said.

If Finley can't find his groove,

the Bears have another option in sophomore Jarred Salubi. The Waco native picked up 298 yards off 50 carries as a redshirt freshman last year and has an elusive running style similar to Finley.

Currently listed as No. 1 on the depth chart at halfback, the Bears will need Salubi to develop into a consistent threat to help keep opposing defenses from locking in on quarterback Robert Griffin.

"Being my first year, I was kind of nervous in some games. I was just trying to see where my comfort level was. Hopefully this year I'll show a lot more poise," Salubi said.

Salubi does have the ability to pick up yards, especially on the outside, as he averaged 6.0 yards per carry last year. The trick will

be making sure those six yards result in the Bears moving the chains.

With the return of Griffin as a second threat in the backfield to scramble for first downs, Salubi and Griffin could pose a nice tag-team effort on the ground.

However, that would be forgetting BU's third force at tailback, Dekalb junior Terrance Ganaway.

The short-yardage specialist loves to run people over, and he did so to find the score five times in 2009. The only fine print on those five TDs was three of them coming on Ganaway's career high, three-touchdown performance against Northwestern

The Bears will be looking for more consistent numbers out of

Ganaway as well as a demonstration of his ability to pick up first downs on "third-and-short" situations.

"I'm not working like I'm fourth string or third string. I'm working like I'm a starter."

Terrance Ganaway Running back

Baylor was second to last in the Big 12 in total third down conversions, succeeding only 60 times out of 167 attempts for a 35.9 percentage.

35.9 percentage.
"I'm not working like I'm

fourth string or third string.

I'm working like I'm a starter," Ganaway said. "I think that's the biggest thing, to be confident in who you are."

Though overshadowed by the loss of Griffin, Finley's ankle injury had a significant impact on the Bears running game in 2009 as it put a question mark at a position that had previously seemed locked up.

In the long run, though, it opened the door for younger backs to have a go against Big 12 defenses for the first time.

If Sept. 4 finds Finley ready to run, the fifth-year back will have the support of his coach.

Now he must lead the trio of tailbacks to provide a ground attack that finds orange first down markers and orange pylons almost at will.

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Offense welcomes back Griffin, Finley; revived unit ready for 2010

By Chris Derrett SPORTS EDITOR

After welcoming head coach Art Briles in 2008, fans waited to see his offense meld the next year with break-out quarterback Robert Griffin III leading the way and a stable of running backs, led by then junior Jay Finley, sharing the load.

The dreams shattered quickly as Finley suffered what proved to be a nagging ankle injury in Baylor's loss to Connecticut and Griffin tore his ACL the next week. Briles called on quarterbacks Blake Szymanski and Nick Florence, who ran the offense in Briles' second consecutive 4-8 campaign. Meanwhile rushing went from third in Big 12 in 2008 to last place with 2.0 yards per

Returning both experience and health to the offensive side in 2010, Briles has all he could ask for as the team strives toward the university's first bowl game in 16 years.

"I really think, without a doubt, it will be the most complete team we've put on the field since I've been here," Briles said.

Offensive Line

Last year, left tackle Danny Watkins shared a room with center J.D. Walton and right guard James Barnard, watching how both seniors led the offensive line on and off the field. Watkins' role has reversed, as he is now the line's lone senior.

Two years removed from junior college football at Butte (Calif.) College, Watkins has little time to lament over the depar-

"I try to share my experience with the (younger guys)," Watkins said. "(We) have to pick it up; (we) don't have an option."

The Canadian former fireman says he has gained some valuable knowledge and wisdom from being around Barnard and the NFL-bound Walton.

"Danny's proven. Danny's not a concern; he's definitely a plus," Briles said.

Junior Philip Blake hopes his performances are as identical to Walton as his 6-foot-3, 305-pound stature. The new center started all the Bears' games at right tackle last year and moved to center last

Sophomore Cameron Kaufhold and junior John Jones landed the starting guard spots, and sophomore Ivory Wade lines up opposite Watkins at right tackle.

Other first-year players, Cyril Richardson and Navarro College transfer Robert T. Griffin, have taken reps with the first string offense in fall camp and could see playing time this season.

Quarterbacks

Now up to 217 pounds, the speedy Griffin III returns after receiving a medical redshirt in 2010.

The Copperas Cove product underwent ACL repair surgery and has made what Briles believes is a full recovery.

"Everything he's done since his injury has been a structured atmosphere. So in that structured atmosphere, he's really in great shape," Briles said at the Big 12's media day in July.

This season gives Griffin, named to the Davey O'Brien Trophy quarterback watch list, a chance to lead his team and silence questions that arose following his 2008 success. As teams no longer suffered from the element of surprise, analysts wondered if Griffin could sustain his rushing threat to the same degree that hurt teams during his freshman year.

In Baylor's first innersquad scrimmage, Griffin had a chance to show the general public that he has not lost any running or cutting ability. Despite still sporting a knee brace and a red, non-contact jersey, he made several jukes on a few snaps before the whistles blew the plays dead.

Because he sat out the Bears' spring game and has not seen live action since beating Northwestern State, the biggest test still remains for the signal caller.

"Football's football; you're going to get hit. I never want to shy away from getting hit. Just like I did my freshman year, my first full season, I'll go out there and play fearless like I always have," Griffin said.

At No.2 on the depth chart stands Florence, whose 62 percent pass completion rate was good for fifth in the conference. Both he and Griffin have sophomore eligibility, which could create more options against future opponents.

Running Backs

Comparing 2009's team rushing output at 1,207 yards and 2008's effort totaling 2,345, the ground game left much to be desired. Three running backs take the bulk this year, each with a distinctive style Briles can use at his disposal.

Like his quarterback, Jay Finley approached 2009 with excitement only to lose his health early in the season. His 79 carries, though a team high, were down from 149 in 2008.

He says the ankle pain has subsided, and among other things, conditioning the ankle has taken priority. With his starting job sealed, Finley has used the offseason and fall camp to slowly regain his burst and prime running form.

"When I'm running out there, I can tell I have another gear, but I really can't use it right now," Finley said. "I can cut pretty good right now."

Finley is not alone, either. Junior Terrance Ganaway will also receive rushes from the tailback position, while thirdyear sophomore Jarred Salubi took the No. 1 slot at halfback following spring football. The two give the running game a nice one-

Ganaway's 6-foot, 240-pound frame pounds the ball downhill, which helped him toward five touchdowns last season. Salubi measures 2 inches and 50 pounds fewer, making life difficult for opponents trying to tackle the agile Waco High graduate. A flexible back, Salubi also caught 19 passes for 153 yards.

"We're not concerned with the running game. We know we can be productive, run the football when the situation presents itself, so that's not an issue," Briles said. "We've got good people up front, good schemes, good running backs."

Receivers

Graduation took 44 percent of the Bears' receiving yards between 2009 and 2010. Bidding farewell to two wide receivers and a tight end, though, Kendall Wright and the receiving corps gladly accept the challenge.

"Besides his parents and coaches, I was one of the people that was hurt just like him," Wright said of Griffin, his original quarterback. "It's like we've never lost anything. It's the same out there with us."

Wright has led his team for the past two seasons in receiving, creating space after catches and eluding defenders for crowdpleasing gains. As a quarterback-receiver duo, Griffin and he make two hard-tocatch, harder-to-tackle targets.

The Bears have two new starters at wideout. In David Gettis and Ernest Smith's absence, Lanear Sampson and Terrance Williams look to provide the deep threats incorporated into Baylor's spread

What the sophomore wide receivers lack in experience they recover in physical ability. Sampson, who caught 29 passes and two touchdowns last year, brings a 4.34 40-



No. 10 quarterback Robert Griffin warms up during practice Thursday inside the Allison Indoor Practice Facility. Griffin and the Bears kick off the season Saturday, Sept. 4 against Sam Houston State at Floyd Casey Stadium.

yard dash. Williams proved his quickness as a kick returner, especially once Mikail Baker's torn ACL ended Baker's season.

"We do have a talented group of receivers and we're really deep at that position," Briles said at the innersquad scrimmage. "It's going to be interesting to watch them throughout the season, because we've got a lot of guys that can make plays."

Tight end Justin Akers exhausted his eligibility last year and left a 6-foot-4, 255pound hole in the offense.

Between Brad Taylor, Jerod Monk and

Willie Jefferson, each of Baylor's formations have whatever they need from the

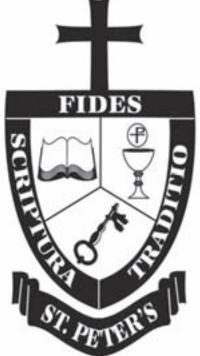
Taylor earned the starting spot from spring drills. A fifth-year senior and former scout team quarterback, he caught 13 passes and a touchdown in 2009. Baylor fans saw Monk on occasion, notably in Baylor's "bearcat" formation as he threw the Bears' only touchdown pass in the loss at Iowa State. The 6-foot-6 Jefferson played wide receiver before converting to tight end between 2009 and 2010.

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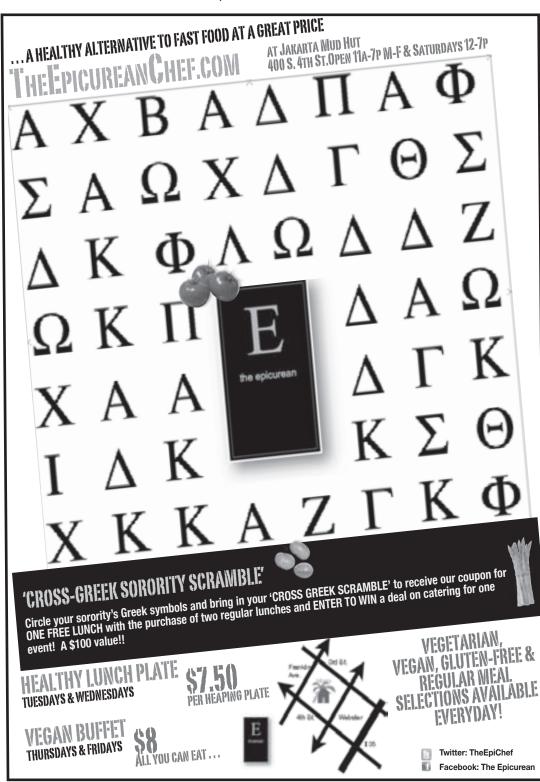
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Defense replaces 2009 leaders with new talent, speed

SPORTS WRITER

There is only one way for Baylor's defense to go in 2010: up. At the end of the Bears' 2009 season they stood last in conference rushing defense (186 yards per game) and eighth in pass defense (257 per game), and the team's 31 points allowed per league game finished ahead of only Texas A&M and

As Robert Griffin and the offense work to keep their defensive teammates on the sidelines longer, new starters bring new abilities to the field when their numbers are called for key stops.

With linebackers Joe Pawelek and Antonio Jones, safeties Jordan Lake and Jeremy Williams and multifaceted defensive lineman Jason Lamb graduated, improvement will rely on these fresh faces in addition to a few returners overtaking core leadership roles.

Defensive Line

Highly touted defensive lineman and Penn State transfer Phil Taylor, expected to lead the Bears with his disruptive blend of speed and strength, came away disappointed from his 2009 effort. He enters this year anchoring the line on a short leash.

"I really - and rightfully so - really thought Phil would have an outstanding year," coach Art Briles said. "So like I told him this year, we're going to pass judgment after

Taylor failed to crack both the Big 12's top 10 sacks and tackles for loss lists, managing 0.5 sacks and 2.5 tackles for loss. But Taylor says his new focus and physical conditioning should yield better 2010 results.

"My weight was up to about 360 pounds during the season last year, but now I'm down to 335," Taylor said. "It's just making sacrifices. To make a team great, everybody has to make sacrifices."

Next to Taylor, Zac Scotton brings 11 career starts to the defensive end position. Scotton recorded 22 total tackles in 2009, and his 6-foot-6, 275-pound physique may allow a similar hybrid ability that made Lamb such a dynamic player

Junior Tracy Robertson takes the starting other defensive tackle spot. A Houston native, Robertson appeared in all 12 games last season, starting seven and matching Scotton's tackle total. He moved from end to tackle during the offseason, saying he has gained the weight and knowledge needed to create trouble with Taylor.

Gary Mason Jr. earned the remaining defensive end slot. Mason Jr. has never started a Baylor game, though Briles has lauded the Waxahachie sophomore's physical ability and development.

Linebackers

Baylor Bears' athletics website fea-

For a brief time each year, the

representative of the football team's leadership. Last year it was middle linebacker Joe Pawelek; this year Antonio Johnson takes center stage commanding the linebacking

side linebacker in 2009. He speed helped him to 77 total tackles.

While critics may question Bears' defense.

"That's a guarantee, that we have a lot more speed than we've had in the last couple of years," Johnson said. "I think we've done a good job filling the holes."

Replacing Pawelek's position is senior Chris Francis. Francis finished seventh in team tackles with 45 as a reserve linebacker and played each game last season. The 6-foot, 235-pound former Sporting News' All-Big 12 freshman packs enough strength to squat more than 600 pounds and bench

Elliot Coffey and Earl Patin, both of whom participated throughout 2009, will also share time as outside linebackers. Coffey holds the No. 1 spot on the post spring depth chart.

In a league containing highously gashed like last season.

"We had to gain weight, get

Johnson saw 12 starts as out-

Johnson's guarantee of Baylor beating "Oklahoma and/or Texas," few will contest his assessment of the

octane running backs from each team, Briles says his linebackers have no plans of being continu-

a little bigger, play a little more



No. 98 defensive tackle Phil Taylor rushes No. 54 center Stefan Huber during practice Thursday at the practice field behind the Simpson Center.

physical, increase speed. We had the players and ability to do that, so there's not going to be too much running on us this year," Johnson

Defensive Backs

This year's secondary may comprise both veterans and youth before the season is over. Given the injuries that occurred last year and Baylor's depth, any of those players could make big plays for the Bears.

As it stands, seniority rules. Seniors Tim Atchison and Byron Landor respectively share free safety and "hero," or strong safety, duties. Fans may recall Atchison from last year as he donned a clublike cast protecting an arm injury, while Landor racked up 46 total Atchison made his 42 total

tackles from the cornerback position before switching to safety during spring football, a position he played his 2007 freshman season. Freshman Prince Kent is listed

under Landor at "hero" and is the only true freshman to make the post spring depth chart on defense.

Whether they were ready or not, cornerbacks Clifton Odom and Chance Casey were called upon to cover the Big 12's best receivers in the wake of early season injuries. Odom likes what he has

seen from the defense as a whole between seasons.

"We've worked so hard this summer, as far as getting better footwork, better breaks, building knowledge of the game. We're more athletic and faster (than we've ever been) in my last four years," Odom said.

The sophomore Casey saw considerably more action after Antareis Bryan went down with a season-ending broken foot. Last spring Casey took fifth place as a 400-meter hurdler at the Big 12 track and field championships.

Odom, broke up a team-high six passes and intercepted a pass against Nebraska.

Local product Johnson brings leadership, versatility to defensive side

By RACHEL ROACH SPORTS WRITER

Returning at linebacker for the Bears, senior Antonio Johnson has a leg up this season with his experience of 22 career starts. According to Baylor defensive coordinator Brian Norwood, Johnson's attitude makes him a great benefit as

"He's going to work hard, and he's going to make plays. He's an aggressive player, a talent and skill set that needs to be on the field. He really does a nice job," Norwood

The third-year starting outside linebacker is one of the top returning tacklers for Baylor with 77, including 37 solo stops, in the 2009

Johnson's defensive skills as an outside linebacker have been modified since his days as a defensive

"He was tenacious pass rusher, and he had uncanny ability to sack the quarterback," said Johnny Tusa, Johnson's high school coach.

have played many other positions with his speed, but he best fit the Lions at defensive end. Along with contributing to an

Player of the Year in 2006 as well as the District 16-4A defensive MVP. "He came in with a natural abil-

lot of different defensive positions for us," Norwood said.

end at Waco High School, where he helped lead the team to a 13-3

Tusa added that Johnson could

impressive team record as a senior, Johnson earned the Waco Tribune-Herald Super Centex Defensive

ity but has really worked to play a

After being recruited and receiving offers from schools like



No. 7 linebacker Antonio Johnson breaks through the offensive line during a special teams drill Thursday at the practice field behind the Simpson Center.

Kansas State, Johnson made a decision to stay near home and attend

Baylor University. It was a "decision that allowed him to play in the Big 12 and stay home," Tusa said.

Since first playing for the Bears in 2007, Johnson has continued to improve each year. As a freshman Johnson totaled 16 tackles, increasing to 72 as a sophomore and 77 as a junior. Each year his total tackles for loss have gone up as well from .5 as a freshman, 5 for 15 yards as a sophomore to 6 for 24 yards as a junior.

Not only has Johnson raised his tackles, but he has also grabbed two career interceptions, one being the 54-yard return in last year's season finale versus Texas Tech.

"The only way you can be confident is to be productive. (Johnson)'s been a productive player for a long time. When he talks, we listen, and everybody pays attention because he backs it

up with play," coach Art Briles said.

Johnson's work-ethic and energy have contributed to his leading the team in a unique way.

"I've been ready to take this on. I've been already considering myself a leader since I was starting as a sophomore. Now it's a role that I love, just to be a part of the team, knowing they look up to me," Johnson said.

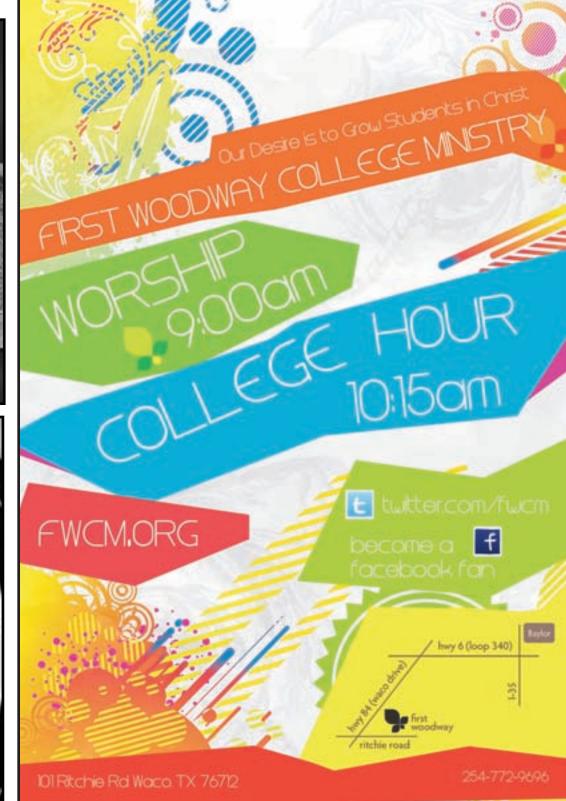
The hard-working senior has had a successful athletic career, and Norwood believes he has a

In regards to the NFL, "He definitely has the potential for that," Norwood said.

"Right now his focus is to his team, getting things going and turned around for Baylor. If he's able to keep progressing, opportunities are definitely still there-but like anything it's finding the right fit, the right team," Norwood said.







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Schedule presents challenges, winning opportunities

SPORTS WRITER

With a healthy team in his third year at Baylor, head coach Art Briles leads his squad with plenty of chances to notch the six-win season that has eluded the university for 16 years.

Sam Houston

Baylor's season opener Sept. 4 against Sam Houston State University should be the least of Coach Art Briles' worries... should be. The Bearkats returned none of their top offensive producers, and head coach Willie Fritz enters his inaugural season. This NCAA Division I-AA squad appears to provide a less demanding start for the Bears after the last two season openers.

Buffalo

Kansas University coach Turner Gill took the Buffalo team from winning one game to winning the Mid-American Conference and the school's first bowl game in just three seasons at the helm.

The Bulls return 13 starters, 12 of whom are upperclassmen who remember the sweet taste of bowl victory and will want second helpings under new head coach Jeff Quinn.

TCU Baylor's

first away matchup Sept. 18 takes them up the road to Fort Worth to take on senior quarterback Andy Dalton's explosive TCU squad that narrowly missed a chance to play for the national title in 2009. Dalton threw for 2,756 yards, notched 23 touchdowns last season and has plenty of dependable tar-

gets to throw to. Baylor's young secondary will need to grow up in a hurry to handle this athletic receiving core.

Robert Griffin will need his own receivers to step up as well. TCU's defense has finished No. 1 in the nation in fewest yards allowed per game for two straight years.

The Bears remain on the road Sept. 25 against the Rice University Owls. The Owls finished 2-10 last season but will look to a pair of backfield transfers in running back Sam McGuffie (Michigan) and quarterback Taylor Cook (Miami) on whom the Baylor defense should key.

Kansas

Three weeks after taking on Turner Gill's former team, the Bears will open up conference against his current Kansas squad. Fresh off a disappointing 5-7 record in 2009, the Jayhawks will be looking for offensive playmakers and will look first to a duo of stout running backs: sixth-year senior Angus Quigley and sophomore Toben Opurum. It could take a while for the Jayhawks offense to get though, so facing them early in the season could

Texas Tech

play right into Baylor's

Next, the Bears seek revenge against another team with a first-year coach, Tommy Tuberville's Texas Tech. Tuberville has vowed to keep the runand-gun offense, but it's tough to say just how similar the Raiders' offense will look. Baylor's defense will need to shut down senior running back Baron Batch as well as once again contain whichever gunslinger Tech has under center. If the Bear's defense can hold the Raiders' offense under three touchdowns again, the rejuvenated offense should be enough to notch a "W" this time around.

Colorado

Andy Dalton A trip to Boulder, Colo., comes next as head coach Dan Hawkins looks to turn the program around after going 16-33 the past four seasons. Baylor's new additions in the box should look to exploit an offensive line that gave up 44 sacks last year, the most in the Big 12. However, Bears beware. Baylor basketball can attest after letting one slip last season that wacky things can happen in Boulder.

Kansas State

Kansas State University comes to Waco for Baylor's homecoming Oct. 23, and it made noticeable strides last season, going 6-6, after head coach Bill Snyder reclaimed the reins. The Wildcats will rely on the ground game, putting the ball in the hands of All-Big 12 senior back Daniel Thomas. If the Bears can put a halt to Thomas and keep the homecoming crowd a factor for whichever inexperienced Wildcat quarterback is under center, Baylor should be celebrating more than just the parade this homecoming.

Texas

The second half of the conference season could pose more difficulty for the Bears, however. Traveling to Austin is never easy, and

> with Oklahoma and Nebraskа earlier on in Texas' schedule, the Longhorns

Garrett Gilbert m o s t likely won't be caught

looking past the Bears.

If Baylor wants an opportunity to surprise Mack Brown's squad on a rebuilding year, though, this might be it. The Longhorns need an answer for the loss of dynamic duo Colt McCoy and Jordan Shipley, and sophomore quarterback Garrett Gilbert has yet to prove himself. Still, Baylor's defense must account

for more than just Gilbert to give its offense a chance to outscore Texas in this one.

Oklahoma State

The Bears then head north to Stillwater, Okla., looking to avenge a 34-7 homecoming loss to the Cowboys last year. The Cowboys, also on what looks to be a rebuilding year compared to the last two ninewin seasons, have Brandon Wheedon a new offensive

coordinator that makes it tough to predict what the run-pass balance will look like come November. A new quarterback in junior Brandon Wheedon will provide another question mark for the Cowboys offense that returns just five starters. Regardless of exactly how many touches he gets, though, senior running back Kendall Hunter, who was named an All-American with 1,515 yards and 16 touchdowns as a sophomore, will need to be stopped if the Bears want to snatch one from the Cowboys on the road.

Texas A&M

Baylor football returns home for its final two contests. Texas A&M senior Jerrod Johnson is the closest match for Robert Griffin's speed at the quarterback position in the conference and he can throw, which should make this matchup an intriguing one to watch.

As if the fact that it's a rivalry game and that the schools split the last two years were not enough, both teams need this win in order to establish legitimacy in the Big 12 South.

Oklahoma

The Bears have the opportunity to close the conference schedule with a bang unlike any other during the season. Oklahoma, cast at No. 5

> by Athlon, is picked to win the Big 12 and contend for the national championship. Time will tell if Landry Jones can grow into the

in the nation

Landry Jones

massive shoes left behind for him by the No. 1 pick in last spring's NFL draft, Sam Bradford.

That remains an "if," though, as Jones threw 14 interceptions as a redshirt freshman in the wake of Bradford's injury. The Bears defensive line will need to be huge, though, pressuring Jones and containing senior running back DeMarco Murray, to derail the Sooners this late in the season.

2010 Schedule

Sept. 4 - 6 p.m. vs. S.H. State

vs. Buffalo

Sept. 11 - 6 p.m.

Sept. 18 - 3:30 p.m. at TCU

Sept. 25 - 7 p.m. at Rice

Oct. 2 - TBA vs. Kansas

Oct. 9 - TBA vs. Texas Tech

Oct. 16 - TBA at Colorado

Oct. 23 - TBA vs. Kansas State

Oct. 30 - TBA at Texas

Nov. 6 - TBA at Oklahoma State

Nov. 13 - TBA vs. Texas A&M

Nov. 20 - TBA vs. Oklahoma

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Clemens indicted, continues to deny steroid use

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A federal grand jury's indictment of pitching great Roger Clemens for allegedly lying to Congress about his use of steroids deals a further blow to baseball, reinforcing the game's image as a sport where the use of performance enhancing drugs was wide-

The six-count indictment alleges that one of the most dominant pitchers of his era obstructed a congressional inquiry with 15 different statements made under oath, including denials that he had ever used steroids or human growth hormone. As he did when he testified to a House committee in 2008, the seven-time Cy Young winner denied using the substances again Thursday and said he will fight to clear his name.

"I never took HGH or Steroids. And I did not lie to Congress," Clemens said on Twitter. "I look forward to challenging the Governments accusations, and hope people will keep an open mind until trial. I appreciate all the support I have been getting. I am happy to finally have my day in

Clemens is just the latest superstar to be ensnared in baseball's steroid scandal. All-time home run king Barry Bonds is scheduled to go on trial in March on charges of lying to a federal grand jury when he said he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs. Slugger Mark McGwire admitted earlier this year to using

Clemens, who turned 48 this month, ranks ninth on the career list with 354 victories and was an 11-time All-Star. During a 23-year career that ended in 2007, he played for the Boston Red Sox, the Toronto Blue Jays, the Yankees and the Houston Astros and struck out 4,672 with a lifetime 3.12 ERA.

The rampant use of performance-enhancing drugs in the 1990s and early 2000s has been one of baseball's worst scandals. The indictments against Clemens raise new questions about whether the superstar will ever be enshrined in the sport's Hall of Fame — and might instead spend time in prison.

Clemens also used his lawyer Thursday to insist that he was telling the truth.

"Roger is looking forward to his day in court," the athlete's

BIG 12 from Page 1

Rep. Chet Edwards, Starr referenced, lobbied for public hearings regarding the impact of a possible Big 12 disbandment, as did state representative Jim Dunnam.

"Long-term decisions about the future of our state's universities and their respective cities should be made in public," Edwards said in a website release published June 10.

Nebraska officially made its move June 12. To many it marked the Big 12's termination, but Texas had other ideas.

As soon as the Longhorns elected to remain in the Big 12, other potential Pac 10 transfers followed suit. Reasons for Texas' decision may have included the possibility of its own television network and the \$20 million the school will earn under the conference's current Fox and ESPN television deals.

Oklahoma and Texas A&M also get \$20 million annually, while the other schools earn between \$14 million and \$17 million as ESPN.com reported. Baylor earned between \$7 million and \$10 million last year.

With the dust settled, head coach Art Briles has been focused on the same thing all along.

"It's my job to get Baylor out there and make them a force in this league that we're in and do whatever is in my power to at least get us bowl eligible," said Briles. "So that's really where all my time and energy is at."

Starr now encourages the Baylor family to back its teams and show the country that Baylor can compete in terms of fan support.

"The ties are very deep, and now we need 40,000 plus people in the stands, every week," Starr told The Lariat.

"I would love for us to move to selling out. I would like for folks to be saying, 'Oh my goodness, I didn't order my tickets soon

conference. "He is happy this has finally happened. We have known for some time this was going to happen. We'll let everything get taken care of in court."

Hardin said federal prosecutors made Clemens a plea offer but he rejected it. Hardin declined to comment on details of the proposed plea deal — which ordinarily involves admitting to a crime while avoiding the scenario of a multiple-count indictment as happened in the Clemens case.

Clemens' case was assigned to U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton, who presided over the perjury and obstruction trial of Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby. No

court appearance.

The former pitcher faces a combined maximum sentence of 30 years in prison and a \$1.5 million fine if convicted on all charges. However, under U.S. sentencing guidelines, he would probably face no more than 15 to 21 months in prison.

Hardin said that although many have argued that Clemens should simply admit he took steroids, "the problem is nobody ever talks about what he should have done if he didn't do it."

"And he didn't do it and he's adamant about that and always has been. Today is just another continuing part of that saga," Har-

Clemens had been prominently mentioned in the Mitchell Report, Major League Baseball's own accounting of its steroid problem, and he went to Capitol Hill on his own to clear his name in 2008.

"Let me be clear," he told lawmakers. "I have never taken steroids or HGH."

What once seemed to be a hesaid vs. he-said dispute between Clemens and his former trainer, Brian McNamee, once the New York Yankees' strength and conditioning coach, escalated into a federal case.

Clemens and McNamee testified under oath at the 2008 hearing before a House committee and contradicted each other about whether the pitcher had used PEDs. The grand jury heard testimony from McNamee, who gave federal authorities syringes he said were used to inject Clemens with drugs.

McNamee has said he injected Clemens more than a dozen times with steroids and HGH from 1998 to 2001. Clemens says McNamee was lying.

"As far as we're concerned, it's vindication," Earl Ward, one of McNamee's attorneys, said of the indictment.

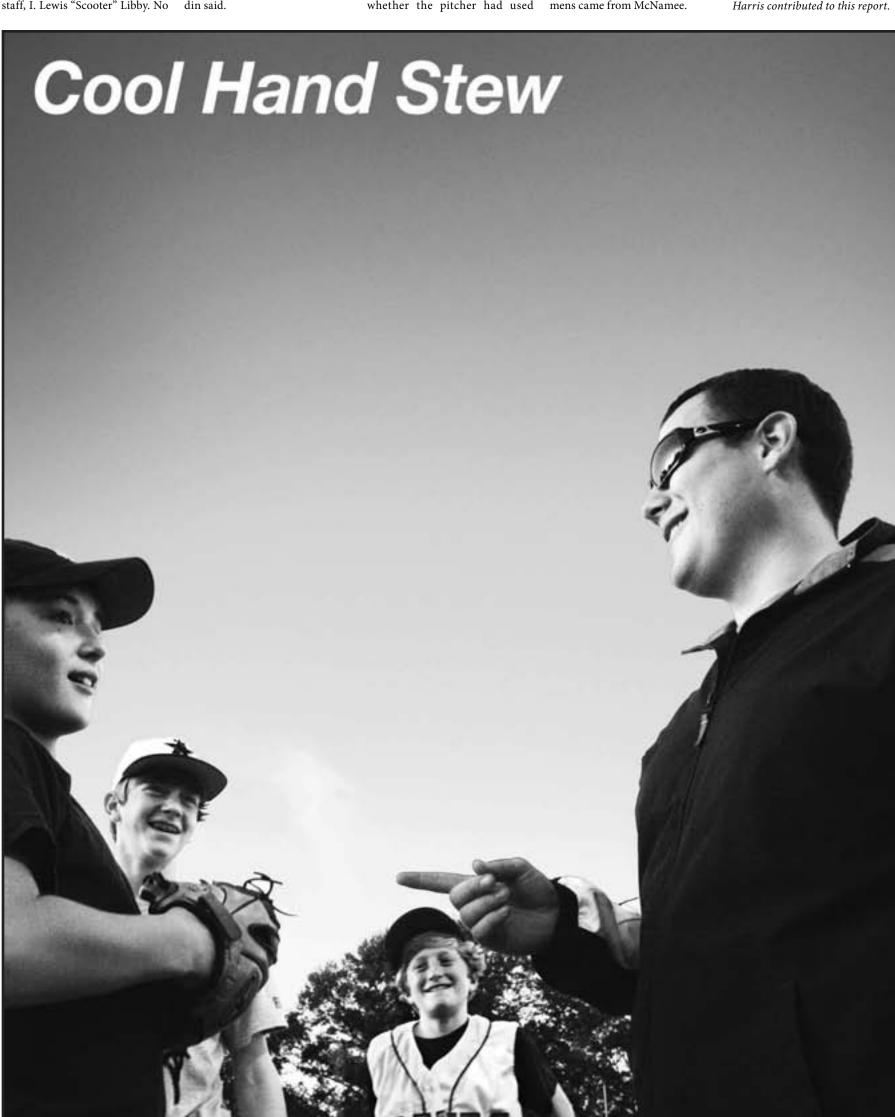
Clemens was singled out by name 82 times in the 409-page report, compiled by former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell and released in December 2007. Much of the information on Clemens came from McNamee.

who has admitted his own steroid use and accused others, was the most-mentioned player in the Mitchell Report with 105 refer-

"I am saddened to hear of the indictment of my friend and former teammate, Roger Clemens," Canseco said in a statement through his attorney. "I am not aware of any use of steroids by

Major League Baseball did not comment on the indictment.

AP Baseball Writer Ben Walker and AP Sports Writers Mike Fitzpatrick, Ronald Blum and Beth



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WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

Cowboys OK with 2 backups blocking for Romo

By The Associated Press

OXNARD, Calif. - On the opening drive of their last preseason game, the Dallas Cowboys' offensive line missed enough blocks to get Tony Romo sacked three times.

Now the Cowboys are about to face a San Diego defense that just blitzed Chicago so often and so well that the Bears pulled starter Jay Cutler earlier than they'd planned. And Dallas will play the Chargers on Saturday night with two backups starting on the offen-

"I stayed up all night and worried about Romo," coach Wade Phillips said. "But I think he'll be all right playing behind a makeshift offensive line."

He was being sarcastic. Very. Phillips said Friday that he ex-

pects to use his starters for "pretty close to a half" against the Chargers. That includes Montrae Holland at left guard and newbie Robert Brewster at right tackle.

And Romo at quarterback.

"Romo needs to get ready to play," Phillips said. "He doesn't need to sit out the whole preseason. Neither one of those (starting linemen) is going to be back in the preseason so the theory of don't put him in there because those two guys are gone, well, then he doesn't play. He just sits out. That's the silly part to me."

Kyle Kosier and Marc Colombo were lost this week to knee injuries. Colombo had arthroscopic surgery and is expected back within two weeks; certainly by the season opener. Kosier doesn't need surgery but could miss up to the first three games.

With neither starter back this preseason, Dallas has little choice but to plug in the replacements and hope for the best. The Cowboys certainly need the work. They haven't scored a touchdown in either of their preseason games. The starters have played only 32 snaps, mounting several good drives but failing to finish them.

Of course, there's a fine line between the benefit of live action and the risk of losing Romo to injury. So the Cowboys will take precautions. Romo will have fewer sevenstep drops, more handoffs and an extra tight end or fullback helping Brewster on the right side when they do pass. Sure, that means they won't get a true test of their offense, but Dallas wasn't planning to dig deep into the playbook anyway.

Phillips said how long the starters stay in will depend on how they're doing. The better they play, the quicker they can have the night off. Romo's health will be considered, too, if the Chargers are finding their way to him with ease.

The Cowboys have allowed 11 sacks this preseason. Holland hasn't played because of a hamstring, but he should be OK considering he's made 48 career starts and played 74 games. Brewster is essentially a rookie because he was injured all of last season, his first.

Rookie linebacker Sean Lee and rookie safety Akwasi Owusu-Ansah are expected to make their preseason debuts. Owusu-Ansah also will be the primary returner on punts and kickoffs.

"I think it'll be important to see both of them," Phillips said.

Tight end Martellus Bennett also is expected to play for the first time this summer.



Dallas Cowboys offensive tackle Doug Free, right, blocks against offensive tackle Will Barker (73) during drills at the NFL football team's training camp Wednesday, July 28, 2010, in San Antonio.

Kempf ascending through minor leagues

By RACHEL ROACH SPORTS WRITER

Recent Baylor graduate from Castroville Willie Kempf has been doing big things while pursuing his career in professional baseball. The Atlanta Braves drafted Kempf in the 27th round last June. He began pitching for the rookie-level Gulf Coast League Braves June 21, and was quickly promoted to the rookie-level Danville Braves after pitching three games for a total of 11 innings with no earned runs.

'He needed to be challenged more at a higher level," said Derek Lewis, Danville pitching coach.

While pitching for the Danville for five games and producing a 1.91 ERA, Kempf was promoted again on July 31, and he now plays for the Class-A Rome Braves.

"It's been an incredible ride so far. This is the third team [the Rome Braves] I've been to in the last month and a half; just as I learn everybody's names I move," Kempf said laughing. "It's been fun and great experience so far and I love everything about it."

Kempf has been a productive

and stand-out pitcher for most of his career. He has a 6-2 record, 1.94 ERA, and a 0.88 WHIP in 60.1 innings between the GCL Braves, Danville and Rome. However, this isn't the first time

Kempf has been turning heads with his pitching ability. While playing for the Bears last season the right-handed pitcher earned a 9-2 record, 3.02 ERA and 80 strikeouts in 83.1 innings.

The three-year letterman and two-year team captain was a benefit to the Bears and a comforting talent while participating in the NCAA tournament last June.

Kempf' says he tries to "go as hard as you can go all the time, [and] work hard for everything you want to do, [because] if not there's someone out there working

That work ethic has not only played a role in his success as a player, but in his motivation to be a role model for others.

Kempf viewed his experience as a Baylor captain and starter as a fond one, stating, "That was something I loved. I remember when I came in, looking up to the older guys thinking how much I respected them and how much they meant to me, and then growing into that role was something that was very special for me."

Kempf hopes to continue to encourage and support his fellow teammates in the professional league as well.

Even though "professional baseball is a lot different," Kempf says. "I plan on going about my business the right way" and "just helping guys out whenever I can."

Baylor baseball coach Steve Smith had only good things to say about Kempf. "He's just a good

model," Smith said. "We were fortunate to have Willie for four years, and when you get a guy back like that its really something hard to put a value on."

Looking back at Kempf's collegiate statistics and comparing them to his recent output with the minor league teams, one thing is consistent: his ability to maintain a low ERA.

Having a low ERA is critical for pitchers and their success, and it has no doubt benefitted Kempf and his teams.

"He showed up well schooled. He was very intelligent about his plans. He came with a game-plan (he brought) from college," Lewis

It has been a whirlwind experience for Kempf thus far, but he stays appreciative for the oppor-

"It's a dream come true for me. It's something I've worked hard to achieve," Kempf said.



Willie Kempf tosses a pitch for the Class-A Rome Braves. In his Aug. 18 start at Charleston, Kempf held the RiverDogs scoreless in 5.0 innings while striking out eight batters and allowing only two hits.

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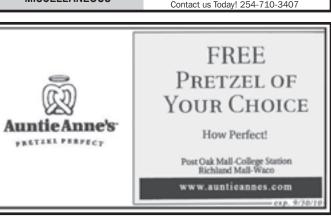
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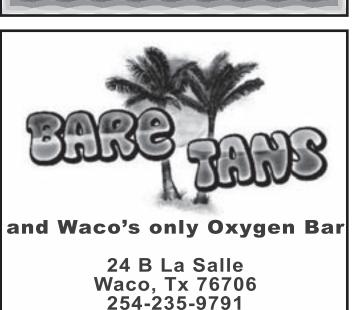
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Student actors shine in 'Dani Girl'

Contributor

A 9-year old girl hauntingly sits on her hospital bed singing requiems to a bunny who she said died from disease. Dani, played by theater performance major Rachel Brown of Keller, has leukemia and wants to believe with all her might that she will conquer the disease.

THEATER REVIEW

Then her hair falls out and she is forced to question "Why cancer?" with the help of her imaginary friend and guardian angel, played by Matt Tolbert, a Rowlett senior. When Marty, played by Huntsville junior Joshua Gonzales, becomes her roommate, they set off to explore the why bad things happen and come face-to-face with the personification of cancer itself.

"Dani Girl" was directed by Kelsey Ervi, a Waco senior, and performed by the Greyman Theatre Co. with support from the

The independent, student-run theater company gave three performances on Aug. 13, 14, and 15 in Theater 11, a small auditorium nestled in the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts building. Somehow, the smaller theater brought an especially close connection between the audience and the performers. All seats were close enough for the audience to read the actors' eyes and see their tears.

I found the play stunning. It brought up questions about God's role and why tragedies like childhood leukemia exist, but left the audience to come up with their own answers. Mature beyond the years of her short but challenging life, Dani asks her mother, "What is the difference between believing and make-believing? They both make you feel better."

The characters seemed so genuine in their questions, and the mother's cries are especially moving as her world falls apart.

I left the production with a rock in my throat as I forced myself to hold back tears. I was not the only one. Sniffing could be heard throughout the audience, and the director was kind to disperse Kleenex to the teary-eyed. No one could bear to see Dani suffer as she cradled her teddy bear in her lap. A mother sitting in front of me clutched her daughter, who had a stuffed animal strangely identical

During a question-and-answer session the actors held after show. some of the audience members expressed concern about some of the scenes in the play. Several strong words are also used in some of the more intense scenes, which I found understandable due to the nature of the situation. Even though the main character is a young child, the fliers distributed around Baylor's campus stated that the play was for audiences 12 and up.

The Greyman Theatre Co. was created this year by Baylor students under the leadership of artistic producer Matt Tolbert and managing producer Joshua Gonzales. Its purpose is to perform modern plays and to give new writers the chance to see their works come to life. Seamless and professional in their work, a performance by this group is not to be missed.



Uproar artist David Dulcie and his band will be at Wac'd Out, a concert on Sunday for Waco college students.

proar prepares for future

By IENNA DEWITT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Throughout college, students take their dreams and turn them into careers, whether they are planning on becoming social workers, educators, lawyers, accountants or even rock stars - at least for musicians performing with Uproar

Uproar is Baylor's recording label run by and for students. The organization gives both aspiring artists and music and entertainment marketing majors a place to practice their future careers.

This experience is not just the kiddie version of the recording industry. According to Uproar president Taylor Ashcraft, the label is much like a major record label. The senior from Humble said Uproar "is very hands-on and timeconsuming but you get a very real view of what it is like to work in the music industry."

"I'm interning at Columbia Records right now," she said earlier this month. "What we do at Uproar is really similar to Columbia."

Other student officers and artists also voiced support for the label's resemblance to the professional world.

"We are doing what we love before we graduate," said vice president Lincoln Faulkner, a Rockdale junior. "This program stretches you beyond your limits and encourages you to take initiative and learn how to work in the fast pace of the entertainment industry."

Emory sophomore Brin Beaver signed as an artist with Uproar last year after performing in After Dark, the student talent show during Parents Weekend. Beaver said the organization provided opportunities for growth as a performing

"I'm able to see what it is like being a real artist in the industry," she said.

Beaver said that through Uproar, young artists "learn to embrace the time you have onstage" and risk "playing your own stuff in front of people and seeing how they respond to it."

Uproar artists met with major record label EMI Records over the summer in Nashville.

"That was probably the best experience of all. It's not every day that you get an opportunity like that," Beaver said.

Two other 2009-2010 Uproar artists, Zoo Studio and David Dulcie and the Ragtag Army, will be performing at Wac'd Out from 4 to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 29 at Heritage Square. The event, advertised as "Waco's Back to College Music Bash," will also feature Speak, Bright Light Social Hour and the James Curlin Band. The event is free and open to all students from Baylor, Texas State Technical College and McLennan Community College. Wac'd Out will also include free food and door prizes. The event is a collaboration between Uproar and the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce.

The label hopes to sign new artists after their fall auditions, held Sept. 25 and 26. New artists will be announced Oct. 1. Potential artists must be Baylor students, but can perform in any genre.

"If you want to get involved as an artist, do a little bit of selfpromotion on your own and have a following. Be willing to put in as much as we do," Ashcraft said.

Beavers said those auditioning should not be afraid to dive in.

"As a freshman, I just took a step of faith and it got me here," she said. "If it is in your heart and you love to do it, there is never a reason to stop."

Salsa festival heats up H.O.T. fair complex on Saturday evening

By Jenna DeWitt ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The Heart O' Texas Fair Complex is getting spicy this weekend with a fundraiser for the Arthritis Foundation and the Heart O' Texas Scholarship Fund. The 15th annual Margarita and Salsa Festival will feature salsa and guacamole competitions as well as live music by Texas Renegade, Wade Bowen, Eli Young Band and Randy Rogers

Around 7,000 to 10,000 are expected to attend from across Texas and Oklahoma.

"It is our biggest event," said Rachel Martinez from the Arthritis Foundation. "We started in the parking lot of Crickets. It has developed into a huge event for



Martinez said the foundation is particularly concerned with the issues that arise with childhood arthritis. According to the foundation, there are more than 300,000 children affected by the condition.

"There are only 200 pediatric rheumatologists nationwide. The closest is in Dallas or Austin. Some have to travel to a different state," Martinez said.

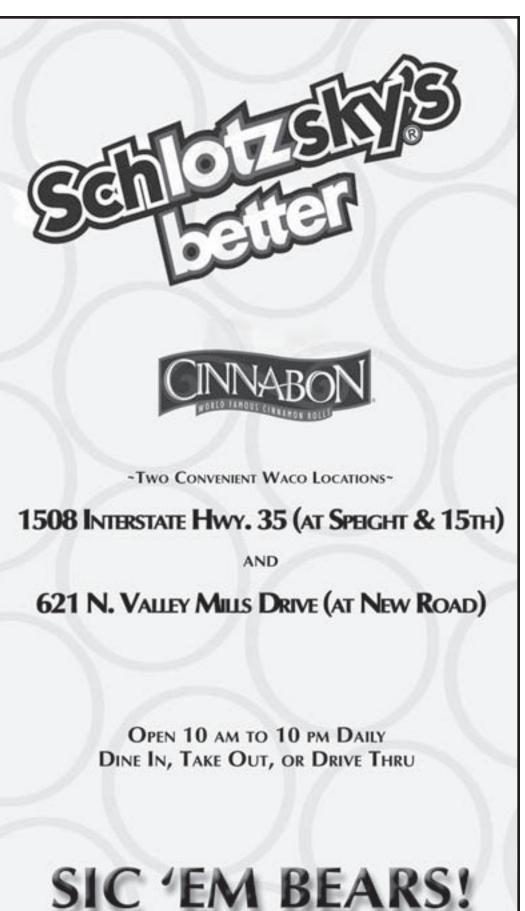
Proceeds from the event are split between the foundation and the Heart O' Texas Scholarship Fund. Event organizers said each organization receives about \$80,000 to \$120,000 from the Martinez urges those interested

to arrive early, as the salsa goes fast, usually an hour to an hour and half after the doors open". General admission tickets are

\$27 through Ticketmaster at www.

ticketmaster.com or the box office at the fair (254-776-1660) until midnight Friday, and will cost \$32 at the door. Parking will cost \$5. The doors will open at 5 p.m. and the music starts at 6 p.m. V.I.P. tickets are also available

for \$150. The V.I.P. section will be Caribbean-themed, including Caribbean food. It will also feature an additional band, Kristen Kelley and the Modern Day Drifters.





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Sky Sailing brings new dreams but no steam to scene

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Adam Young's Owl City album 'Ocean Eyes" composed of unimaginable story lines about relationships submerged in love and millions of fireflies sky rocketed to

Now, the 20-something from Minnesota is back and this time his music takes you from foaming waves to puffy white clouds.

Young's side project, Sky Sailing, is still a one-man show but this time the acoustic guitar takes a prominent role and listeners accustomed to Young's music get a different timbre than normal.

The album, titled "An Airplane Carried Me to Bed," is a compilation of songs the young master mixer wrote in 2006 before hitting the charts with Owl City last year.

I was skeptical of Young creating an entirely different band for songs that echoed the sentiments of off-the-ground highs of love and below-the-sea blues of despair. However, the distinction between the two is big enough for me to be fine with separate bands.

Released on June 13, the album captures a part of Young that has been evident since he hit the scene he has always been a dreamer.

Sky Sailing leaves the rhythmic synthesizers and picks up the piano and guitar and spells out his childhood dreams of love, friendship, exploration and adventure.

I know I can't be the only one

Across

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17 Rara

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43 Assistant

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60 Lots and lots

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1 Poet Khayyám 5 Stroll 10 Retail mecca

15 Eagle's weapon

18 How rivals compete

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44 What a lenient judge may

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64 How pistol duelers stand

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73 eBay command

2 Find new digs

3 Working hard 4 Do a blacksmith's job

71 "Bill & Excellent Adven-

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68 Longtime Hydrox competitor

who tired of Ocean Eyes after being on a electro-pop high for two or three weeks and, unfortunately, Sky Sailing has done the same.

Young's recent release doesn't stray far enough from technology not to bore me after a few weeks.

If every one of Sky Sailing's new songs moved as far from electropop as the album's fifth track, "A Little Opera Goes A Long Way" does, the album would actually take

ALBUM REVIEW

center stage. Sky Sailing does rely more heavily on guitar and piano sounds that add down-to-earth elements — but it doesn't go quite far enough to hit the ground running.

I got my money's worth out of the new Sky Sailing album as Young walked me through his pre-Owl City dreams, but the album can fall flat after a while. Overall, the album is a great compilation of Young's work and provides for an awesome low-key background for studying, but I don't see any of the tracks hitting the top of the charts.

If you are a lover of technopop, you won't stop listening. But, if you are searching for a new twist on a style reminiscent of Relient K's "Mmhmm" album you'll be disappointed.

Grade: B+



The cast of Baylor ShowTime! holds their final pose during Baylor University's spring 2010 After Dark show.

After Dark auditions stir competition

By Jenna DeWitt ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

At Baylor's talent show, there are no eliminations, judges or competition. That's what the auditions

After Dark auditions are serious business for those eager for a chance to perform onstage at Waco Hall. Last year, More than 70 acts auditioned for 16 spots. Those 16 went on to perform for more than 4,000 audience members, including their fellow students, alumni, professors and parents.

'We traditionally have about 100 acts audition. It always proves difficult to judge because the talent is just so good," student productions coordinator Keith Frazee said. "We generally take 12 to 20 acts each year. That depends on the length and flow of each act as well, so that number can vary."

After Dark is one of the first traditions during Parents Weekend. This year the show will be held at at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Sept. 10 in Waco Hall. Tickets are sold for \$10, \$12, \$14 or \$16, depending on the seating area.

Auditions are right around the corner for those preparing for the show. Auditions will be held Aug. 30 and 31 in Waco Hall. As the first major performance of the school year for the Student Productions committee, After Dark means back-to-school is crunch time to prepare for the show.

Student Productions handles everything from judging the auditions to building the sets. Houston senior Sarah Pullin, serving on the committee for her second year, said the committee has been working on this year's show since last spring.

When the show gets closer, we watch all the rehearsals and make sure everything looks good from where the performer is on stage to the lights used," Pullin said. "We also make sure everything sounds perfect. When it comes time for the show, we are just there to make sure everything runs smoothly.'

Since After Dark is a variety

"Each individual *Baylor student has* been given so many different talents."

Sarah Pullin | Houston senior

show, being unique is important. Standing out among the other 99 students auditioning can be hard, but the diversity in the acts contributes to the show's entertainment

"We have several auditions of people singing. We love that, but

After Dark is a variety show, so we can't have half of the acts be a student sitting on a stool playing the guitar and singing," Frazee said. "My advice would be: do something different. There is a much higher chance of making the show if you're the only person auditioning with that specific talent."

Pullin echoed Frazee's call for uniqueness.

Each individual Baylor student has been given so many different talents," she said. "Bring us something you think we have never seen before.'

Past auditions can be viewed on the After Dark web page at www. baylor.edu/studentproductions. Auditions will be filmed.

Those interested in auditioning can sign up at the Campus Programs on the first floor of the Bill Daniel Student Center or call Student Activities at (254) 710-2371 for more information.

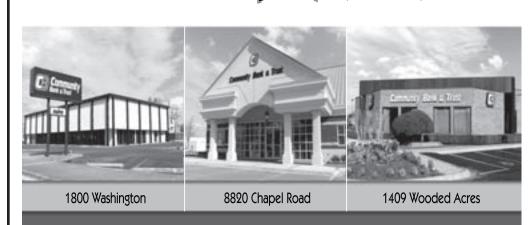
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- 5 Good at sports
- 6 West in old movies
- 7 Spill the beans
- 8 Miner's bonanza
- 9 Course between salad and dessert
- 10 Dashboard abbr.
- 11 Indigenous Alaskan 12 Landlord's contract
- 13 Packs in a hold
- 19 More than glanced at 21 "Diana" singer Paul
- 25 Okay to consume, as for **Passover**
- 27 Swedish furniture retailer
- 28 Study feverishly
- 31 Black of country music
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A&E EDITOR Baylor alum Gregg, Ryan lead guitarist and vocalist for Addison Road, shares his perspective on its new release, "Stories," and the band's long list of joys and storms over the past two years.

Q: Is your new album, "Stories," more like your independent album "Some Kind of Spark" or like your more recent self-titled album?

A: We are hoping "Stories" is a good combination of both. Keeping the pop side but being more artistic and creative. That's what we are hoping for, somewhere in between and not have the exact same sound but trying to expand on it.

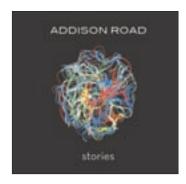
Q: How much of the album did you guys write yourselves?

A: We actually wrote all of it except for one song. TobyMac wrote the first song, "Fight Another Day." It was really cool because in the song it talks about when the fire gets hot, will you walk away, and when we recorded we really liked the music and what it is saying, but then two months after we finished recording it, we went on tour with Sanctus Real in an RV and it caught fire. We had to play a concert that night after we lost everything and here's that song. Actually a lot of the songs on the album felt like they were directly speaking to what we ended up going through. I felt like it was also a chance to give us some credibility to what we are saying. God's given a whole new spin on these songs than when we had written them. They have a whole new meaning for us.

Q: Is "Don't Wait" based on a true story of losing a friend?

A: It is, actually. We were kind of going back and forth. We had a couple versions of it done, but we totally changed it. When we first started writing it I thought, "This song is going to be so dark." I thought it would be hard to put a light into it, maybe. But we thought it was something important to talk

about with what the song is saying - "don't wait" and "live for today" and stuff. It was based on a true story and by the time we got done with it, we were happy with how it



Q: Did all the songs you wrote for this project come from real ex-

A: Yes, we always try to be as genuine and real as we can. I just don't know how to tell a story unless I really believe in it or am dealing with it. I just have to say what I'm thinking. We want to be real, for better or for worse.

Q: After the crazy last two years

See The Lariat's blog at baylorlariat.wordpress.com for more coverage of "Stories" and Addison Road.

that your band has had, how do you deal with the hard times?

A: Something that seems really crazy for us, like the fire, but at the same time, there are so many people going through so many things. We just felt reaffirmed over and over that we were just in a tough spot going through tough times. Especially through the fire, God took care of us and the body of Christ reached out to take care of us. It was actually one of the most encouraging times I remember us having. In the midst of it, it ended up being a really cool thing.

Q: How have these experiences changed you personally?

A: It made me question if I needed to keep doing it, which I did. God obviously has a plan for

us, has a hand in what we are doing and is taking care of us. In a dark world, we have to trust in God. With these songs, God was speaking that back, "I'm going to take care of you" and trust God with the whole situation. I feel more sturdy now and better in my faith.

Q: You've just had a baby, Lila Kate. How has life been as new

A: She's two months old. She is great. She is actually wearing a Baylor outfit today.

Q: Addison Road has come a long way since the fall of 2007, when Baylor's senior class saw you perform at our first Chapel our freshman year. You've had top ratings on iTunes and Billboard; your songs have gotten consistent play on Christian radio stations like KLOVE; you've been nominated for Dove awards and CCM Readers' Choice awards. How do you stay grounded in the midst of all

A: We aren't thinking, "Wow, we are doing so good." We are always thinking, "What can we do better?" We are very grounded. While it's cool, that stuff doesn't get to our heads. There is nothing glamorous about being in a band. We have been very blessed with radio and people are enjoying our

Q: Do you see the band staying mainly in the Christian market or crossing over to the mainstream as

A: Especially starting out early, we wanted to write songs that could be both, but it came to the point where we had to be one or the other. We decided to be very honest with faith in our lyrics, but crossing over isn't something we are trying to do. We are just doing our thing.

Q: As alums, what advice would you give to current Baylor students?

A: Try to do something that you enjoy to help people. Remember who you are and what God has done for you. Go and make the most of it.



Ryan Simmons, Jenny Simmons, Ryan Gregg and Travis Lawrence released their newest album, "Stories."

Album reveals true emotion, life lessons

By Jenna DeWitt ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Alanis Morrisette has nothing on Addison Road when it comes to "ironic."

Over the past few years, the band faced the same monumental test multiple times: whether they lived the beliefs they present in their songs. Especially when their RV was consumed by flames just one week into their spring tour, they had to ask themselves the same questions they sang on their new single, "Fight Another Day," written by Grammy-award winner toby-

"Will you step aside when it all falls down, and watch it burn away? ... Will you walk away when the fire gets hot? Or fight another day?" the song asks. The band had to make the choice not to walk away from their ministry, even as the literal fire consumed everything they had with them on the road.

The past two years since their

self-titled label debut have been a roller coaster of change for the band. They have been on a search for a new drummer. A car accident totaled their van. Their trailer and equipment has been stolen twice, once by a convicted murderer. With these times of testing has come joy as well. Their sophomore release has seen the tops of the charts, including No. 2 on iTunes' Christian Music Store. Three of the band members are new parents. Add in Dove and reader choice award nominations, and these alumni seem to be doing a pretty great job of spreading their green and gold afar.

But is it any good?

From the moment these "Stories" begin, they proclaim a message of hope even bolder than before, with undeniable witnesses to the band members' faith. The lyrics reveal a vulnerability that goes deeper than the feel-good clichés of all too many songs released in the Christian market. These songs do not stray from all that made the band

lovable in the first place. This is still a collection of fun pop tunes that will undoubtedly be on constant repeat on the radio with all of the album's earworms and positivity.

Since they are so relatable for anyone who has gone through hard times, these songs quickly become old friends.

On paper, the lyrics can seem far too emo for the poppy music, but in reality, the combination works oddly well to make the songs more raw and relevant. Plus, with all Addison Road has endured, it has real situations to back up their testimonies.

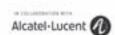
The frank "Won't Let Me Go" states the band's response to these trials quite gracefully:

"Welcome to my latest disaster/Same book just another chapter/I never thought it could be worse than last year/But here I am again today/I laugh 'cause it hurts when I scream/But I'll make it through 'cause I believe"

Grade: A



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