THE GREEN & GOLD

The Green & Gold newsletter provides a monthly glimpse into three of the four pillars of Baylor Athletics: Academic Achievement, Character Formation and Spiritual Growth.

BEARS IN THE COMMUNITY

BREAKFAST WITH THE BEARS

Annually, we commemorate Baylor Homecoming as an athletics department by going into the community to celebrate our kids at the local elementary schools. This year, 60 student-athletes from our Football, Equestrian, Softball, T&F/XC, Men’s Golf, M/W Tennis and M/W Basketball teams volunteered at Castleman Creek, Crestview, Kendrick and Parkdale Elementary Schools. Our student-athletes cheered and welcomed the kids into school, sat with them at breakfast time, walked them to class and even participated in a pep rally! We hope to continue to do this every year and love seeing our community grow and have joy.

SAAC & MENTORING ALLIANCE TRUNK OR TREAT

For the past five years, SAAC has collaborated with community organizations to host a Trunk or Treat event. This year, they partnered with the Mentoring Alliance. Student-athletes who are apart of SAAC thought of booth ideas with activities such as a guessing booth, coloring station, face painting, toilet paper mummy wrapping, broom toss, ring toss, Jenga, hula hoop, and pumpkin bowling. All activities for the Trunk or Treat were set up in Mentoring Alliance’s gymnasium in a U-Shape format that allowed students to go to each booth and enjoy every activity. “Halloweentown Passports” were given to students and, once they made it through the entire Trunk or Treat, they were able to receive a special prize! Student-athletes from various sports, including Softball, T&F/XC, Equestrian, Baseball, M/W Tennis, M/W Basketball, A&T, and Soccer, signed up to volunteer and interact with the students at Mentoring Alliance. Our student-athletes and youth from Mentoring Alliance were able to come in costume and participate in all of the fun activities. Another special component of hosting this Trunk or Treat is our freshman student-athletes decorate craft bags for the students at Mentoring Alliance to store all of their candy and treats! SAAC was truly excited to partner with Mentoring Alliance again this year. This event is a great way for our student-athletes to interact with the community and help provide a safe and fun option for Halloween time.
CHARACTER FORMATION

BEARS IN THE WORKFORCE

The purpose of Bears in the Workforce is for former letterwinners to share their post collegiate athletics professional experiences with our second-year student-athletes. During this event, our student-athletes are able to interact with former letterwinners from various sports in a small-group setting. As our student-athletes continue their collegiate athletic careers, they are able to gain valuable knowledge and hear personal stories that will inspire them to continue to think about how sports impact their lives and futures. This event also serves as a networking opportunity for our current student-athletes and allows for a continued partnership with the “B” Association. Our student-athletes were able to gain so much from this experience and enjoyed hearing from each letterwinner in attendance.

CELEBRATION TIME

After eight weeks, 27 student-athletes finished the Leadership Institute. In this institute, they were able to use the inside-out approach to leadership. First, looking within to discover their core values and how they may aid in their leadership style. Then, they worked to the outside approach of learning about emotional intelligence to better have crucial conversations. The final curriculum day focused on leading with love and motivation to keep being the leader they were called to be on their team. As these influencers begin their seasons, our hope is they are able to take what they learned in these eight weeks and lead their team with excellence!

Addi Grandy (A&T), Rakel Jeffries (A&T), Ally Joswick (A&T), RJ Ruias (BSB), Will Pendergrass (BSB), Langston Love (MBB), Jayden Nunn (MBB), Aijha Blackwell (WBB), Jada Walker (WBB), Lucia Ament (EQU), Lauren Reid (EQU), Kalena Reynolds (EQU), Alexis Rutledge (EQU), Jonas Appel (MGO), Sam Dossey (MGO), Ashleen Kaur (WGO), Silje Ohma (WGO), Amber Toven (SB), Ashlyn Wachtendorf (SB), Oskar Brostrom (MTEN), Ethan Muza (MTEN), Caleb Ackman (MT&F), Demar Francis (MT&F), Cooper Mack (MT&F), Jackie Addy (WT&F), Kierstyn Ballard (WT&F), and Alexis Brown (WT&F)
THE GOOD NEWS

This month, every new student-athlete at Baylor received a green Baylor Bible with their name on the inside of the cover. These Bibles represent the Christian mission of the University and the spiritual growth pillar of the athletic department. As the Sports Ministry staff and team chaplains prepared to give the Bibles to the freshman student-athletes, they prayed for the freshman class, asking God to draw each of them to Himself and for spiritual growth throughout their time at Baylor. Would you join us in this ongoing prayer?

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Forty-six of our student-athletes received All-Big 12 Rookie Team honors for the 2022-23 school year. To obtain this recognition they had to be a new/incoming freshman, complete 24 semester hours of coursework and achieved a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. We are so proud of them for this accomplishment and hope they continue their journey of academic success in the years to come.

TEAM BREAKDOWN OF RECIPIENTS

Acrobatics & Tumbling - 6
Baseball - 7
Equestrian - 3
Football - 8
Men’s Golf - 1
Women’s Golf - 1

Soccer - 7
Softball - 3
Women’s Tennis - 1
Men’s Track & Field - 1
Women’s Track & Field - 2

Drew Snyder from the Men’s Cross Country team has been named as a Big 12 Scholar Athlete of the Month for October. Continue to be great in and out of the classroom, Drew!

“I am honored to be named Big 12 Scholar Athlete of the Month for Baylor University. This recognition not only highlights my dedication to academics, but the Baylor Athletic Department’s dedication to my success as an athlete and a student. I look forward to utilizing the resources Baylor has to offer to continue to set and accomplish my athletic and academic pursuits.”

-Drew Snyder, Men’s Cross Country
What is your biggest takeaway from Leadership Institute? My biggest takeaway from the Leadership Institute was learning about how to have critical conversations. Through this, I learned how people have different reactions under stress, as well as what these reactions are. I learned how to identify and work through these reactions in order to achieve a positive outcome in a potentially highly emotional conversation.

What does the phrase “leadership isn’t a designation, it’s moments” mean to you? “Leadership isn’t a designation, it’s moments” means to me that there isn’t a set leader in any situation, but it is instead the instance of someone stepping up and guiding another person or group of people towards a goal, through a tough situation, or just flat out in a general direction towards success in any facet of life. Leadership is also something that can constantly be improved by a person and there is no point when anybody is a perfect leader, but there are many moments where an exceptional leader exhibits the action of leadership.

How will the skills you learned help you in the future? The skills I learned will help me in the future by allowing me to better understand myself as a leader and person through my core values, leadership style and reactions under stress, so that I am able to guide those around me through being a guiding force towards whatever that person actually needs or wants. It will also help me with my team in our upcoming season so that we are able to have more success, and I am able to efficiently push my teammates in the direction we need to go towards to achieve our goals.