

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 FOR BOOKS

During this past Fall semester, Baylor Athletics initiated the Bears For Books youth reading initiative. This allowed our student-athletes to have the ongoing opportunity to read to students at elementary schools in our community. As a department, we recognize that literacy is important for our students and their futures and continuously want to give back to the community. During the Men's Basketball game on November 9th, two third-grade students from South Waco were recognized for their growth and ability to excel in fine tuning their reading and comprehension skills. Our next Bears for Books celebration will take place on Thursday, December 14th, during our women's basketball game against Delaware State!



Ale Rutenis
Women's Track & Field

"Reading with the kids at South Waco was so much fun! They were all super excited about the stories, having a visitor and engaged in the reading. Being there reminded me why reading is such a big deal for these kiddos. It's not just about words on a page—it's about opening up a world of imagination. Seeing how excited the kids got about the stories just proved how important it is to make reading a big part of their lives and continue to encourage learning! This experience showed me that storytelling isn't just about books; it's about bringing people together and making learning fun. Every kid had their own thing to add, and it reminded me that education is a team effort. All in all, hanging out at South Waco made me appreciate teachers, parents and anyone who helps kids get into reading. It takes a village, and I'm so glad I got to be part of it!"



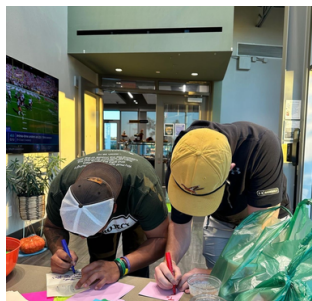
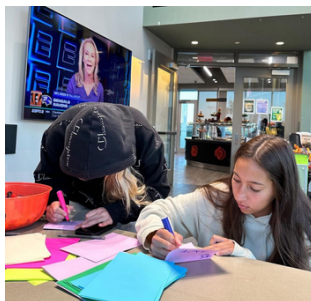
SEASON OF SERVING

BASEBALL LENDS A HELPING HAND TO FOOD FOR FAMILIES

Food for Families is an annual one-day food drive that happens the Friday before Thanksgiving in nine different counties within Central Texas. Their main goal is to be able to stock the shelves of local food banks and pantries beyond Thanksgiving by collecting non-perishable food items. Our Baylor baseball team was able to participate in this amazing event at the KWTX studios here in Waco. The team had the opportunity to unload donations from cars that drove in for drop off, as well as sorting and labeling food items. In the end, a total of more than 2 million pounds of food was collected amongst all nine counties. The baseball team had a great time serving our community and can't wait for their next opportunity to do so!



SAAC CELEBRATES BIG 12 "GIVE THANKS" WEEK



Baylor SAAC participated in the Big 12 "Give Thanks Week" initiative during the week of November 12th-18th. Baylor SAAC student-athletes planned multiple events that highlighted what students and Athletics staff are thankful for. Student-athletes were also able to express gratitude for their support systems and the many people who have an impact on their lives. The week was fun-filled, interactive and a true testament to the many ways student-athletes are supported at Baylor University.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

INTERNATIONAL BEARS

Despite growing up only a few miles from one another in Denmark, Jon Steinhauer (Football) and Oskar Brostrom Poulsen (M. Tennis) had never met. Coincidentally, they sat next to each other on the first day of chapel class, they recognized each other's accents and a friendship began. Prior to coming to Baylor, neither Dain owned a Bible, and they were uncertain what they believed about God. Throughout the semester, they engaged with topics related to the integration of faith and sport and continued to discuss these topics with one another outside of chapel class. With the semester coming to a close, John Maurer, Associate Athletic Director of Sports Ministry and Chaplain to the Football and Men's Tennis teams, introduced Jon and Oskar to Dr. Preben Vang, a professor at Truett Seminary originally from Denmark. The four men had lunch together, where Dr. Vang prayed over their meal in Danish. Jon looked up and said, "I have never heard anyone pray in my language before." We often think the Great Commission instructs Christians to go to far-away nations in order to share the love of Christ, and for some it does, but here at Baylor God brings the Nations to our doorstep. Please join us in prayer for Jon and Oskar, and all the international student athletes at Baylor, that they may encounter the radical love of Christ in this unique season of their lives.



Pictured left to right: Dr. Preben Vang, Jon Steinhauer, Oskar Brostrom Poulsen, John Maurer

BIG 12 STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Sarah Andrews for earning the Big 12 Student-Athlete of the Month award!
We are so proud of the person that she is both on and off the court!

"Sarah Andrews is one of a kind. She moves the same way on the court that she does in the classroom, with determination, grace, and passion. She wants to find success in both the student and athlete parts of her title. Sarah will be successful in whatever she does because of the way she treats others and attacks every day"

- Molly Pannell, Assistant Director of Learning Support



STUDENT-ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Why did you choose Baylor? I chose Baylor because of the faith-based program.

Everything that we do is rooted in faith, and it really makes a difference for our culture.

What is your favorite memory from your experience being a student-athlete? I have so many fond memories of my time with this team, I genuinely love these girls and feel so grateful for every moment I get to share with them. My favorite memory is probably from our trip to Malibu last year to play Pepperdine. We took a trip to the beach one night and spent time laughing and listening to music and had a little bonfire, and it was really fun. I think it was a moment where I realized just how much I love my team.

What does graduating college mean to you and your family? My mom graduated from Baylor, so this experience has been really fun to share with her. A lot of the places I go are still the same from when she went here, and I was even able to take one of her professors, which was fun!

What song will remind you of this time in your life and why? I don't really have one specifically that comes to mind.

Name a coach or staff member that has had a positive impact on you, what will you remember about them? I think I can truly say that every person on our staff has made an impact on my life. They work really hard and care so much for us and our well-being outside of being an athlete, and I think this is due to the biblical foundation that Coach Mac has built his program from. Right now, if I had to name just one person, it would be Coach Joshua Walker. He is always ready to go the extra mile for us to help us get better. He also does an amazing job of making us all feel valued. Every team has starters and people who spend most of their time on the bench. My role on this team can be difficult at times, but he has always made me feel like a key component to our team.

What advice would you give to a freshman student-athlete coming to Baylor? Your time here is what you make it, and the biggest component to your success are the people around you. How you love your team and the staff that is here to support will make your time here great



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VOLLEYBALL

