

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.

SAAC BRINGS HALLOWEEN SPIRIT TO WACO WITH TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT



Baylor's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) brought Halloween fun to downtown Waco this October, hosting a successful Trunk or Treat at the Mentoring Alliance after-school center. The two-hour event welcomed over 100 families, filling the gymnasium with decorated tables, candy and costumed kids ready to celebrate. SAAC members and student-athletes from various teams decorated tables with Halloween-themed games and crafts, creating a festive and safe environment for kids to collect treats and interact with their favorite Baylor athletes.

The partnership with Mentoring Alliance, which provides after-school programs and summer camps to Waco youth, made this event a memorable one for the community. "Seeing the excitement on the kids' faces as they went from table to table was so rewarding," said **Bella Fontleroy, Women's Basketball**. The Trunk or Treat event offered an opportunity for Baylor Athletics to give back to Waco families while building connections that stretched beyond the field.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BEARS: BUILDING COMMUNITY AT CRESTVIEW ELEMENTARY

Our Women's Basketball, Track, Equestrian and Softball teams kicked off a memorable morning at Crestview Elementary with "Breakfast with the Bears!" Student-athletes spent quality time with the young students, sharing smiles, stories and breakfast treats. The morning was filled with laughter, connection and encouragement, as our athletes and the children bonded over pancakes and fruit.

After breakfast, the athletes lined the hallways to cheer the students on as they headed to class, leaving a lasting impact and reinforcing the power of community. This special morning reminded us how meaningful connection can be for our student-athletes and the youth who look up to them.



PROGRAMMING SEASON

Networking Night a Success: Boosting Career Development for 200 Student-Athletes

Last month's Networking Night was a tremendous success, with 200 Baylor student-athletes seizing the opportunity to connect with professionals from 30 businesses. This annual event was designed to help our student-athletes build crucial career connects, provide them with insights and contacts that could lead to future internships, job shadows and full-time positions.



The participating businesses represented a range of industries, offering guidance and opening doors for student-athletes as they explore career paths beyond sports. The night was a valuable experience for both students and employers, fostering meaningful connections that will support our athletes in achieving their career goals. We're grateful to all who attended and helped make this event an unforgettable step toward future success!

Financial Literacy Workshops Recap

This month, 20 aspiring entrepreneurs signed up for How to Start a Business in 48 Hours, an intensive workshop designed to take participants from idea to execution in just two days. Guided by guest speakers from GXG Collective, attendees learned how to develop a business concept, gain their first customers and explore the next steps through optional tracks on E-commerce and Brand Development. By the end, each participant left with actionable plans to launch their own business ventures.



The Navigating Taxes for Entrepreneurs roundtable, which saw 30 participants, tackled the essentials of tax management—a critical area for any new business owner. GXG Collective once again brought in experts who broke down key tax strategies, from understanding reporting thresholds to leveraging tax benefits for long-term savings. This session empowered student-athletes with practical knowledge on how to build a strong financial foundation from the start. Together, these workshops gave participants a powerful toolkit, combining hands-on launch strategies with financial planning skills essential for entrepreneurial success.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BAYLOR MEN'S BASKETBALL BRINGS JOY THROUGH COMMUNITY CLINIC



On October 16th, the Baylor Men's Basketball team partnered with Special Needs of Central Texas to host a memorable community clinic. For one hour, the players led individuals from the organization through basketball drills, cheers and high-fives, creating an environment full of joy, encouragement and connection. The event marked a meaningful moment for participants and players, reflecting Baylor's commitment to community engagement and inclusion.

"We learn so much from moments like these," shared **graduate player Jalen Celestine**. "The connections we make remind us of what truly matters. Basketball brings us together, but the relationships and joy we spread stick with us." The clinic included dribbling, passing and shooting exercises, each designed to be accessible and fun for all participants. Every achievement, big or small, was celebrated with genuine enthusiasm from the players.

The experience was equally valuable for the participants. One individual shared, "I got to meet my favorite players, and they showed me how to dribble and shoot! It was so much fun." The chance to work directly with collegiate athletes made a lasting impact on the participants, who were inspired and uplifted by their attention and support.

Special Needs of Central Texas, an organization focused on enhancing the lives of individuals with special needs, expressed gratitude for Baylor Basketball's involvement. "The team's support means the world to us," a representative from Special Needs of Central Texas said. "They bring their hearts, making every participant feel seen and valued."

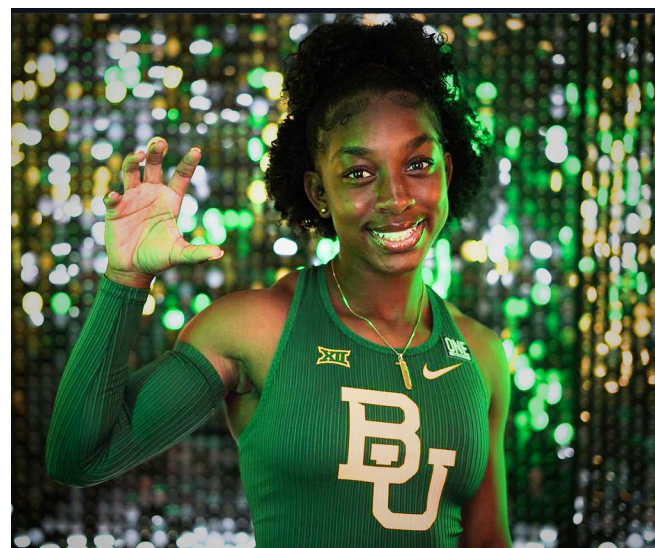


As the clinic wrapped up, the players and participants shared group photos, laughs and final high-fives, leaving with a renewed sense of community and purpose. "Today was more than a clinic; it was an opportunity to uplift others and be uplifted in return," added **freshman player Robert Wright III**. This event is a testament to Baylor Men's Basketball's dedication to serving others, spreading joy and building connections that last beyond the court.

STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS

HONORING EXCELLENCE: SUMMER SARGENT NAMED BIG 12 ACADEMIC CHAMPION FOR OCTOBER

We are proud to announce that Summer Sergeant, a standout on our women's track and field team, has been recognized as the Big 12 Academic Champion for October. This prestigious award honors student-athletes who excel in their sport while demonstrating leadership, perseverance and strong commitment to academics and community service. As a senior majoring in Health Science Studies and President of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), Summer is a dedicated advocate for Baylor's student-athletes, ensuring that every team feels valued and supported. She balances her rigorous academic pursuits with the demands of athletics, embodying the spirit of Baylor Athletics through her leadership, dedication and commitment to fostering unity across all programs. Summer's achievements set a powerful example for her teammates and the entire Baylor community.



"Being named the Big 12 Academic Champion is an incredible honor, and I'm grateful to represent Baylor and my teammates. This recognition reflects the hard work and commitment I strive to bring to both my academic and athletic journey every day."

Summer Sergeant, Track & Field.

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE: EIGHT WEEKS OF GROWTH AND A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD



This month, we celebrated the graduation of our Leadership Institute participants, marking the end of an impactful eight-week program designed to equip student-athletes with key leadership skills for both their athletic and personal lives. The program challenged participants to rethink their approach to leadership, focusing on self-awareness, resilience and influence. Through weekly modules on emotional intelligence, motivation and crucial conversations, they developed essential skills for effective leadership. The curriculum combined theory with hands-on activities, including role-playing and open dialogue, to enhance empathy, communication and the ability to inspire others. Participants emerged more confident, self-reflective and better prepared to lead both on and off the field.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

BAYLOR ATHLETICS AND HILINSKI'S HOPE TEAM UP FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

From October 5-12, Baylor Athletics observed Student-Athlete Mental Health Awareness Week, a dedicated period to support and raise awareness for the mental well-being of student-athletes. Led by Baylor Athletics Mental Health Services, this week aimed to foster a positive dialogue around mental health, emphasizing that support and resources are readily available for those in need.

In the weeks leading up to the event, Baylor Mental Health Services organized mental health awareness initiatives at various sporting events, including volleyball, football and soccer games. These events served as a platform to encourage open conversations about mental health among athletes, coaches and fans. The Hilinski's Hope Foundation—a nonprofit dedicated to supporting mental health initiatives in college sports—provided helmet decals, pins, hair ribbons and bracelets that athletes and coaches proudly wore during games to promote the cause.



During the awareness week, Baylor's Mental Health Services staff engaged fans and athletes directly by setting up informational tables at soccer and volleyball games. These tabling events emphasized the importance of student-athlete mental health and provided an opportunity for fans to learn more about the available resources. The tables featured giveaways and highlighted stories of professional athletes who have overcome mental health challenges, offering inspiration and encouragement to Baylor's community.

Throughout the week, additional tabling events and giveaways for student-athletes showcased resources and coping strategies, reminding them that mental health is just as important as physical health. Athletes were encouraged to prioritize their well-being and received information on how to access Baylor's mental health services.

Baylor's partnership with Hilinski's Hope underscores the university's commitment to addressing mental health concerns within the athletic community. This week served as a reminder that no athlete is alone in their struggles and that Baylor stands ready to support them in all aspects of their well-being. Learn more about Hilinski's Hope Foundation and its mission to reduce mental health stigma in college sports at [Hilinski's Hope Foundation](#).

STUDENT-ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Jasmine Gryne reflecting on her being selected for the BIG 12 Career tour and how the career workshops have prepared her for this opportunity:

“I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity to represent Baylor at the Big 12 Career Tour. This experience will not only help me expand my network but also allow me to learn directly from top industry leaders and gain valuable insights into my chosen career path. The communication and interpersonal skills I’ve developed through our workshops at Baylor have given me a strong foundation, and I know they’ll be essential tools for connecting with professionals and understanding the strategies that drive successful careers. This tour is a significant step forward in both my personal and professional development, and I’m excited to make the most of every opportunity it offers. I look forward to bringing back new perspectives and skills that will contribute to my journey and, hopefully, benefit others as well.”



JASMINE GRYNE
TRACK & FIELD

Jalen Celestine reflects on his time during Leadership Institute:

“I’m incredibly grateful for the chance to participate in the Leadership Institute here at Baylor. Transferring to a new school can be challenging, and it’s easy to feel a little lost at first, but this program has made all the difference in helping me feel at home and grounded. At my previous school, there weren’t programs like this available, so having the opportunity to dive into leadership training here has been eye-opening. I’ve gained so much insight into my own leadership style, learned how to communicate more effectively, and built strong connections with others in the program. Beyond just leadership, being able to access the other workshops and resources Baylor offers has been invaluable in helping me start planning for my future. I’m now thinking more deeply about what I want to achieve and how I can make a meaningful impact after college.”



JALEN CELESTINE
MEN’S BASKETBALL