

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.

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Over the past eight weeks, nine students from football, soccer and volleyball embarked on a transformative journey through the Leadership Institute, a program designed to cultivate and enhance leadership skills among those recognized for their influence within their respective teams. Handpicked by their coaches for their significant impact, these individuals delved deep into an introspective exploration of their leadership potential. Beginning with the foundational step of identifying core values, participants progressed to defining their unique leadership styles and learning about emotional intelligence. Through immersive exercises and guided discussions, they honed their ability to navigate crucial conversations with finesse and empathy, fostering understanding and growth for all involved. As the program reached its conclusion, the cohort was privileged to welcome guest speaker and creator of Committed 2 Win, LLC, Darryl W. Thomas, during their graduation celebration. His inspiring words served as a poignant reminder of the vital role their leadership plays in shaping a brighter future, both on and off the field. These student-athletes emerge from the Leadership Institute not only equipped with newfound skills but also empowered with a heightened sense of purpose, ready to lead by example and make a meaningful difference in the world.



Leadership Institute Participants: Richard Reese (FB), Michael Allen (FB), Devyn Bobby (FB), JJ Evans (FB), Campbell Barrington (FB), Skye Leach (SOC), Tyler Isgrig (SOC), Kyndal Stowers (VB) & Allie Sczech (VB).

STUDENT-ATHLETE TRIUMPH

NICHOLI DEFENDS HIS MASTER'S THESIS

Nicholi Brown, a graduate student on the men's track & field team, received a Bachelor of Science in Biology and has been working on his Master of Science in Biology over the last 10 months. On March 22, he successfully defended his master's thesis. The day after this eventful moment, he was able to set a personal record in his 400-meter dash at the Clyde Hart Classic meet here in Waco. Nicholi is the epitome of a true student-athlete, and we are grateful for his amazing contributions to Baylor. We cannot wait to see where the future takes him!



BIG 12 STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to Sydney Collazos for earning the Big 12 Student-Athlete of the Month award! We are so proud of her amazing work!

"Despite the grueling course load that comes with being a Health Science Studies: Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental major at Baylor, Syd has consistently set the bar on what it means to be a student-athlete. Syd does a great job building relationships with her professors in order to maintain academic success during her championship season. In addition, Syd stays in communication with me and provides updates when she needs my support or insight. It has been a pleasure working with Syd over the past three seasons, and I can't wait to see the amazing doctor she will be in the future."

-Quentin Hendershot, Associate Director of Academic Services

CREATING DISCIPLES

Last semester, Equestrian senior Madi Mitchell participated in iDisciple, an eight-week spiritual leadership cohort, with the desire to develop as a spiritual leader on her team. During iDisciple, Madi learned how to engage in meaningful spiritual conversations with others and how to share the gospel. This month, Madi put these tools to use by taking a teammate out to coffee where they talk about the meaning of life. This opened the door for Madi to share the gospel with her teammate.

The iDisciple program was developed to equip student-athletes with basic ministry skills. As a result of the work done in iDisciple, the courage and faithfulness of student-athletes like Madi, and the work of the Holy Spirit, a number of student-athletes were able to celebrate Easter as new followers of Christ.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

GIVING BACK

On March 13th, 2024, the student-athletes in the Strategic Learning Course partnered with SAAC to complete a community service project that will be donated to the women of the Salvation Army. This initiative not only showcases the students' commitment to giving back to the community but also emphasizes the importance of empathy and teamwork fostered within our programs. We are proud of their efforts and the positive impact they are making in the lives of others.



INSPIRING THE YOUTH OF TODAY

Hal Presley attended the AVID Elementary Charlotte Anderson Preparatory Academy in Arlington, Texas. Each year, Charlotte Anderson takes their fourth graders on a college visit. And starting last year, they made Baylor their staple school because of Hal. On this visit, Hal, Trey Wilson and Garmon Randolph were able to inspire the students to reach for their dreams, stay focused in school and to have great character in all aspects of life.



"The event was important to me because I wanted to show the kids from my elementary that anything is possible, you can do anything you put your mind to. Giving back to my elementary school was also very important to me because I got to show them how far I've come and how far they could end up going. I enjoyed the interactions and conversations between me and the students, also being able to tell them a little about my life and hopefully inspiring them."

-Hal Presley

STUDENT-ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



MICHAEL ALLEN
FOOTBALL



TYLER ISGRIG
SOCCER

What are your core values? Faith, Family and Personal Growth. My faith is what grounds me, putting everything into an eternal perspective. Leading from a faith lens is as simple as following the Golden Rule: Loving God and Loving Others. My family is the most important thing in my life. From a young age, my family has instilled into me the importance of loving one another. The word family does not just apply to those you are biologically related to, but the family that you make along the way. I have been so fortunate to meet incredible people here at Baylor that feel like Family. Personal growth is a daily commitment to better yourself. One of my biggest goals is to be a life-long learner. You will never know all the answers or all the right things to do, and I think there is a comfort in knowing that reality. Constantly growing and constantly learning are the only ways to reach where you eventually want to be.

What is your “why”? I have had so many people throughout my life that have poured into me, given me opportunities, and believed in me. Whether this is my family, close friends, or past teachers and coaches, they are my why. I hope to make them proud in all that I do and for them to know that their investing in me was worth it.

Which topic do you feel was most impactful for you in your current leadership journey? Why? I felt like the topic of crucial conversations was the most impactful for me on my current leadership journey. No one enjoys having the difficult conversations with other people. I tended to shy away from having them to avoid damaging relationships with my teammates and peers. I learned that if I truly care for them, I will tell them what they need to hear, not what they want to hear. I will continue to improve on having these crucial conversations and holding everybody on my team to the highest standard of excellence.

Overall, what is your biggest takeaway from leadership institute? Leadership isn't a title, it is moments. Each and every day, you are given countless opportunities to positively lead other people. This can be in the classroom, in athletics, or just out in public. Your ability to adjust your leadership skills based on the situation at hand is critical to becoming a transformational leader. Simply serving others and loving others well is the first step in becoming a successful leader.

What are your core values? I chose authenticity because it has always been important to be my true self and real to others when it comes to showing my character, culture and personality. Also, I try to never be discouraged from being myself in any setting. Faith is important to me since I value having trust in God, myself and the people around me (coaches and teammates). By having faith, it gives me a foundation of hope and optimism that guide my decisions and help withstand adversity. Lastly, I chose competency since I value using my strengths and skills to help me be efficient and successful in my everyday life.

What is your “why”? My “why” is to utilize the gifts God has given to me to leave the best influence on those I encounter. In my sport, my “why” is to keep the same passion I had as a little girl to drive me through my career and hopefully inspire more girls in women's sports.

Which topic do you feel was most impactful for you in your current leadership journey? Why? I felt that the emotional intelligence topic was extremely useful in my leadership journey. As a young player that's put into a big leadership role such as a captain on my team, it's important to have to speed up my emotional maturity to understand how to manage my emotions and interactions with others. By being more intentional with my EQ, I've been able to understand my teammates at a more personal level and justify my emotions before acting. It's very important to show positive intent, as uplifting others in this area can be beneficial in a team setting.

Overall, what is your biggest takeaway from leadership institute? After going through Leadership Institute, I took away that leadership is not a steady process, but having an awareness of your ups/downs and strengths/weaknesses in your journey can help you improve as one. I've experienced adversity and many lows before in my athletic career, but having recognition of how I felt and overcame it is important in how I handle new situations. Your “lows” can help you improve how you motivate yourself/others, how to handle conflict, and the stress styles you obtained to get you through tough times. Ultimately, understanding how you're “geared” when it comes to your values and emotions can help how you impact your teammates and be more personable. All in all, a good leader is one who can master handling emotion and conflict that is within and outside themselves.