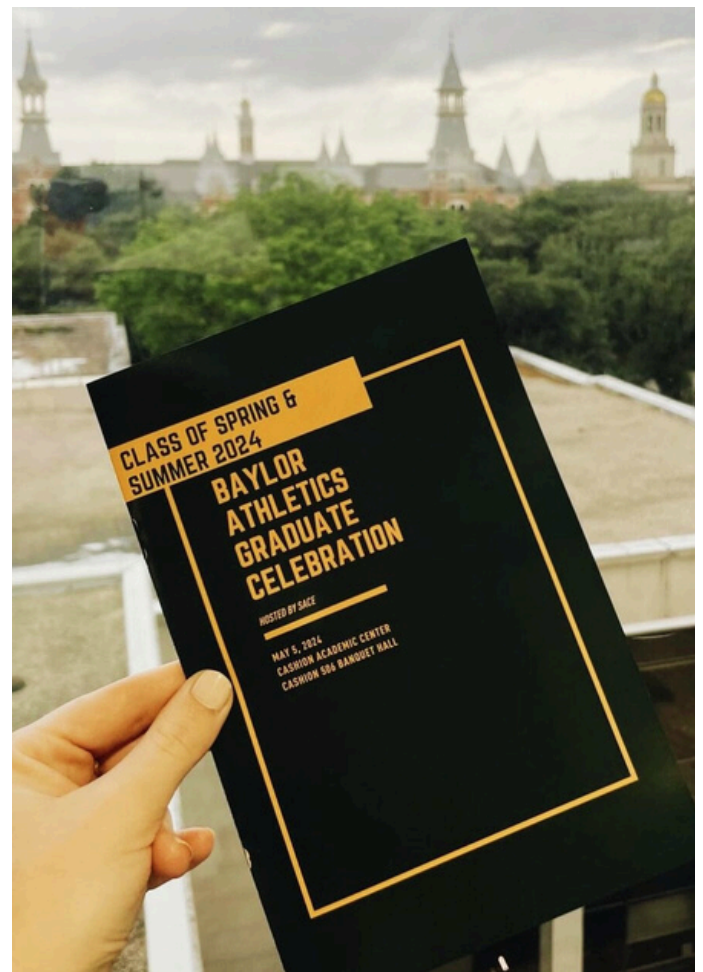


THE GREEN & GOLD

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

GRADUATE CELEBRATION

On Sunday, May 5th, the Student-Athlete Center for Excellence hosted our Spring Graduate Celebration where we recognized 83 graduating student-athletes from 13 teams. During the celebration, we heard from student-athletes, Dariana Orme from Softball and Cole Stasio from Baseball, as they shared the lessons they have learned and their experiences of being a student-athlete at Baylor University. Executive Senior Associate AD Callie Schrank closed us out with encouraging words for the graduating student-athletes as they transition into the next stage of life.



THE GREEN & GOLD

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SPRING & SUMMER 2024 GRADUATE HIGHLIGHTS

PREPARING CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE

60 
NAMED
ACADEMIC
CHAMPION
DURING
THEIR TIME
AT BAYLOR

25 UNDERGRADUATE
PROGRAMS

6 GRADUATE
PROGRAMS



72%

EARNED A
PERSONAL-
BEST GPA
DURING
THEIR TIME
AT BAYLOR



83 

CHAMPIONS
FOR LIFE

14 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
PARTICIPANTS
21 SAAC MEMBERS
10 LEADERSHIP RETREAT
PARTICIPANTS

CUMULATIVE GPA OF
3.35

GRADUATES
FROM
20 STATES
AND
5 COUNTRIES



1,407

HOURS OF
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

15 
SPORTS
REPRESENTED

STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS

RIDING INTO A PROFESSIONAL CAREER

The Career in Sports Forum is an annual educational program that gathers 200 selected NCAA student-athletes to explore potential careers in sports, particularly in college athletics. This three-day forum, attended by our very own Dominika Silvestri and Lauren Stebbins from Equestrian, provides participants with opportunities to network with peers and decision-makers at the campus, conference and national levels. The program aims to educate participants on how their personal strengths intersect with career opportunities, provide tangible experiences to advance their aspirations and explore professional development strategies for transitioning into a career in the sports industry. Participants gained insights into the roles of intercollegiate coaches, athletics administrators and national governing body staff members. Notable speakers covered topics such as self-awareness in professional development, practical approaches to the sports job search, personal branding, career planning and managing oneself as a professional in the sports industry. Through panels, breakout discussions, keynote presentations and facilitated dialogues, attendees left with a comprehensive understanding of athletics as a career path and how they fit into the industry's landscape.



Dominika Silvestri (Left) Lauren Stebbins (Right)



“Being able to hear from top professionals in the industry was inspiring and was a great exploration of many different roles in the industry. I was able to network with fellow athletes who have aspirations that are admirable. I look forward to continuing to build the relationships I made at the career in sports forum.”

Dominika Silvestri, Equestrian

STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS

CHAMPIONS [RE]DEFINED



In May, the Baylor Athletics Sports Ministry team collaborated with Truett Seminary's Faith & Sports Institute to organize the very first Champions Redefined Spiritual Retreat. The Champions Redefined Retreat is a unique experience utilizing a five-day collaborative chapel experience for Baylor student-athletes to learn concepts and tools in order to "love God with your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and their neighbor as themselves" within the sports context.

Unlike other Christian sports camps, the Immersion Chapel is set in a multi-dimensional, fully-embodied learning environment where athletes hear, see, and then practice the virtues of faith, love, discipline, hope, and courage in and through competitive sports labs embedded in an authentic and caring community. What the student-athletes learn about God, themselves, others and the culture of sports can be translated into any sphere of life and relationships.

This retreat consisted of 32 student-athletes who were eager to delve deeply and discover how to embody virtues within the competitive sports culture. They practiced this by exploring deeply held motivations and fear, cultivating disciplines in sports and life, embracing hope in difficult times and tapping into courage to live out their faith.

Moreover, they learned the importance of connecting with and placing trust in fellow players and leaders through small group processing, competing together, providing a safe place for courageous conversations and engaging in community service with a local non-profit organization known as Mission Waco.

"I really enjoyed my time at the Champions Redefined Retreat. It showed me how to honor God while playing football – something we are never taught as Christian athletes growing up."

Jacob Redding, Football



STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS

EMBRACING EXCELLENCE IN AND OUT OF SPORTS



(From left to right) Jada Walker, Yaya Felder, Mariah Polk, Sarah Andrews, Richard Reese, Layla Alexander, Kaian Roberts-Day, Brendan Betts

From May 22-26, eight student-athletes – Sarah Andrews, YaYa Felder and Jada Walker from Women’s Basketball, Brendan Bett, Kaian Roberts-Day and Richard Reese from Football, and Layla Alexander and Mariah Polk from Acrobatics and Tumbling – and two staff members, Malcolm Givens and Christal Peterson, had the amazing opportunity to attend the Black Student Athlete Summit in Los Angeles, hosted on the University of Southern California campus.



While at the summit, student-athletes and staff members engaged in powerful networking sessions and had meaningful conversations surrounding financial literacy, the well-being of a Black student-athlete, and attending “pro-day” sessions where student-athletes were able to engage with former student-athletes who are now in a variety of professions outside of athletics. Sarah Andrews was featured on a panel titled Sweetheart vs Villains: A Memorable Season in Women’s College Basketball, where student-athletes discussed the 2023-2024 women’s basketball season.

STUDENT-ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Lauren Stebbins reflects on her trip to The Career in Sports Forum:

“I am so grateful for the opportunity to represent Baylor Athletics and Baylor Equestrian at the NCAA Career in Sports Forum this year! It was a wonderful four days packed with networking, building relationships, hearing from those already in the field, and learning more about myself. One of my biggest takeaways from this experience was learning that getting into the field is not about who you know, but who knows you. Another takeaway was learning that work is a team sport, and you must be a team player so that everyone on your team succeeds. One of the quotes that stuck with me from the forum was “championship rings are seldom worn on smooth hands”. Working in sports requires a lot of time, sacrifice, and dedication, but if you are passionate about the work, it will pay off in the end. I learned that one of my strengths is positivity and I realized how much I love to encourage others to succeed and make them happy. This forum taught me to be aware of my strengths and utilize them to be successful in the working world. I feel so thankful for the growth I experienced and for the relationships I built during my time in Indianapolis!”



LAUREN STEBBINS
EQUESTRIAN

Jada Walker reflects on her time at the Champions [RE]defined retreat and the Black Student-Athlete Summit:

“I think that it’s a blessing to have multiple black student athletes and staff come together to create change with the institutions we are all minority in. Networking and discussions about what is needed for us to grow mentally, physically and emotionally within the sport and in the real world, corporate world, and professional careers”

“I had a great experience at the Champions Redefined Retreat, I learned that my purpose and love through God remains no matter how my performance is and to just glorify Him through my play. I learned that having a strong foundation with God at the forefront is the steppingstone to success in not just my sport but life. I enjoyed meeting and hearing other athletes and staff members and bonding through community service, competition and fellowship.”



JADA WALKER
**WOMEN’S
BASKETBALL**