

Baylor University

The school in Waco is Texas' oldest university

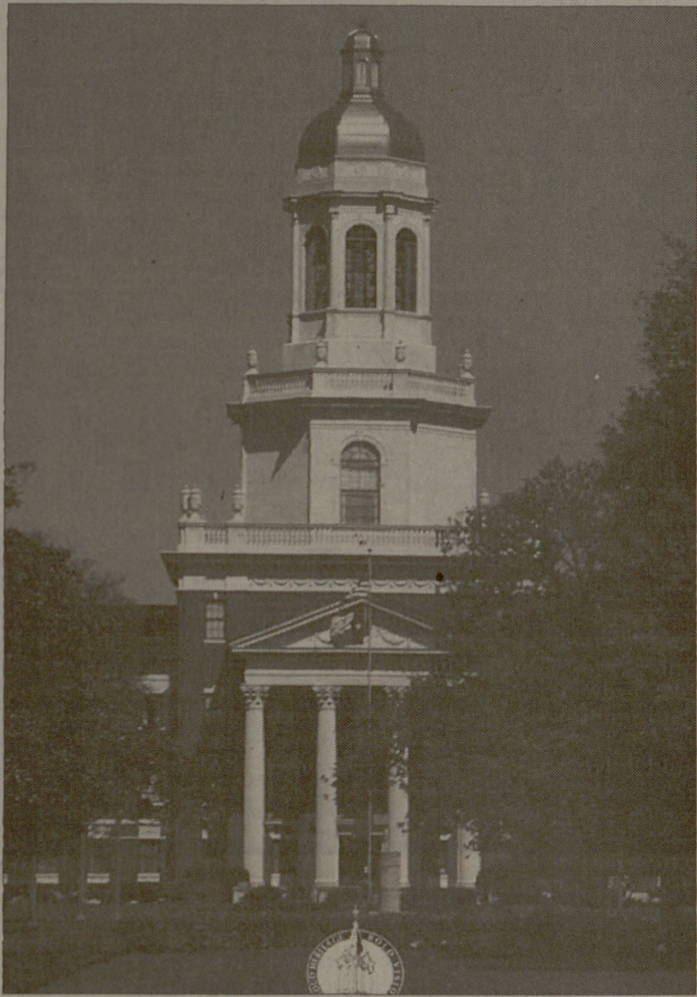


Photo Courtesy of Baylor University Media Relations

Pat Neff Hall

BY APRIL TOWERLY
THE BATTALION

Baylor University, the world's largest Baptist and Texas' oldest university, stands in Waco amid the green and gold flowers that inspired its school colors.

Founded in 1845 by Baptist minister William M. Tryon, Baylor originally was to be named San Jacinto University, to recognize the victory that enabled the Texans to become an independent nation.

But the name was later changed to honor war revolutionary Ben Milam. After several suggestions and just before the final vote of Congress, petitioners requested the university be named in honor of Judge R.E.B. Baylor.

Baylor University's Waco campus holds a college of arts and sciences, as well as schools of music, education, law, nursing

and business. Baylor also has a graduate school.

The university, which is controlled by the Baptist General convention of Texas, operates the Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, and it is affiliated with the U.S. Army Academy of Health Sciences in San Antonio.

The school's Armstrong-Browning Library is known for containing the world's largest collection of the works of Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

But Baylor is more than school buildings and academics. The school also has a unique atmosphere that ranges from its bear mascot to the roadside foliage.

After 70 years without an official mascot, Baylor students voted on over two dozen animals in 1915.

The bear defeated the buffalo by more than a two-to-one margin. The first bear to arrive on campus came as a gift from soldiers at

Camp MacArthur in Waco in 1917.

Baylor students chose the colors green and gold to represent their school because they noticed the pretty combination of the bright yellow flowers and the green grass alongside the Texas roads as they returned from a field trip.

For cultural flair, Baylor hosts several special events for both the students and the community.

"Diadeloso" is a Baylor holiday and celebration. The holiday draws its name from a the Spanish phrase "dia del oso," which translates as "The Day of the Bear."

In addition, there is the Beall Poetry Festival held for a two-day period in the spring. Last year, the festival featured poets Mona Van Duyn and Anthony Hecht, and other special guests.

Baylor is one of the few universities that holds a Homecoming football game and dance every year.

Bears' defensive losses, inexperienced offensive line make road bumpy to Big 12

BY COLBY GAINES
THE BATTALION

Baylor University, the only private institution in the Big 12, begins its 97th year of football this season under third-year Head Coach Chuck Reedy.

In 1995, the Bears went 7-4 en route to a second place tie with A&M and Texas Tech in the Southwest Conference. Baylor played well in every contest, but was outmatched against perennial power such as Texas and Miami.

Nationally, Baylor ranked 16th in rushing offense last season, averaging 210.1 yards a game, but ranked 79th in passing yards per game with 173.2. The Bears' defensive unit, however, was thoroughly impressive, finishing the season ranked fifth in the country

in total defense.

But the Bears' 1996 defense begins the year with the loss of seven starters, including NFL first round pick Daryl Gardener, which will be detrimental when the team faces new foes such as Nebraska, Kansas State and Colorado. However, cornerbacks Matt Anderson, who was the 1994 SWC Newcomer of the Year, and senior George McCullough should play key roles in keeping opponents' offenses honest.

Offensively, Baylor looks to improve on last year's record with experience and the return of eight starters. At quarterback, two-year starter Jeff Watson and nationally coveted prospect Odell James will vie for the starting position.

James, who was ranked the No. 1 recruit in Texas in 1995, comes to

Baylor after compiling 78 touchdowns and 5,870 yards at Aldine MacArthur High School.

Also, junior running back Jerod Douglas returns after last year's 1,114-yard season.

Up front, senior offensive tackle David Davis will anchor the offensive line. However, the protection could be weak considering sophomore guards Kelvin Garmon and Chris Sampy have little experience.

Overall, the Bears appear ready for another decent year in the SWC. Unfortunately, they are playing in the Big 12, where eight of this year's eleven opponents had records of 7-4 or better in '95.

Baylor University



Location: Waco, Texas
Founded: 1845
Enrollment: 12,000
Coach: Chuck Reedy
Colors: green and gold
Stadium: Floyd Casey Stadium. Seats 50,000.
1995 record: 7-4-0
Lettermen returning: 38
Lettermen lost: 20
Returning starters: 14
Titles won: Southwest Conference four times, including a five-way tie in 1994.



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Junior tailback **Jerod Douglas** breaks tackles en route to a touchdown against Texas A&M at Floyd Casey Stadium last season.

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