



BAYLOR LARIAT

News for the students by the students

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TRESTAN EBNER

"I want to enjoy this as much as I can with these guys I've grown to love." Pg. 2



R.J. SNEED "When I know you more off the field than I know you on the field, then I know you've got my back." Pg. 4

HERE COME THE BEARS FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Coach Dave Aranda finding his stride

MARQUIS COOLEY Sports Editor

Being a first-year head coach is hard. It's even harder in the midst of a pandemic, which is what Baylor football head coach Dave Aranda had to deal with when he took the job in 2020. COVID-19 took away everything a first-year head coach in a new program would need to be successful, such as practice time and face-to-face interactions, which resulted in the Bears finishing with a 2-7 record.

Now in his second year with fewer restrictions, Aranda is happy just to get a chance to be closer to his team.

"Excited to be back and excited to be in normal spaces," Aranda said in a press conference. "It's a big difference when you're in a room and you've got the attention of everyone, and they're all focused in on you and you can kind of feel it, as opposed to, 'We're here and everything is spaced out to such a degree that it's hard to keep that attention.'"

Aranda has taken advantage of being able to be closer to his team, implementing weekly team dinners and Zoom meetings with families in an effort to allow everyone to get to know one another — something the players appreciate.

"I think that's what makes a team good,"

Excited to be back and excited to be in normal spaces. It's a big difference.

DAVE ARANDA | HEAD COACH

senior wide receiver R.J. Sneed said in a press conference on Aug. 10. "When I know you more off the field than I know you on the field, then I know you've got my back on the field. So I think that's a good thing going into the season, compared to last year where we get on the field and I see a number out there, I'm like, 'Who is that?'"

Aranda has also made it a point to meet with players individually so they can pick his brain.

"A couple weeks ago, I sat with Coach Aranda and just talked coverages," junior quarterback Gerry Bohanon said. "Man, when I say that he knows so much, it is unbelievable. I couldn't even grasp it all because I was just writing everything down trying to catch it. And I know when I went home later that day, I had to sit back and just read. I was like, 'Maybe I need to meet this guy a little bit more; he's very intelligent.'"

Senior safety JT Woods has had similar experiences with Aranda.

"He just gets in the zone," Woods said in a press conference. "He kind of sits back, and he just dissects a play. If you really sit in a film session with him, you can really see the defensive mind that he has. It's just really amazing for me, being a defender. I just love

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TAKING THE REINS Gerry Bohanon is Baylor's new starting quarterback after having competed against Jacob Zeno and Blake Shapen for the spot.

Gerry Bohanon set as QB1

GIO GENNERO Sports Writer

Junior Gerry Bohanon is ready to start as the new quarterback for Baylor after having competed for the spot against sophomore Jacob Zeno and freshman Blake Shapen. Bohanon spent most of his time at Baylor as a backup to previous quarterback Charlie Brewer. Now that it's his time to shine, Bohanon said he has continued to work on his game.

"I'm working on everything," Bohanon said.

The standout Earle High School QB from Arkansas has since spent his time as a backup at Baylor. However, he became a fan favorite during his redshirt freshman

year. The crowd would chant his name at games, often referring to him as "RG4." This reference is to Baylor icon and Heisman winner RG3: Robert Griffin III. Bohanon's play style is similar to Griffin's, and his jersey number, 11, is one higher than Griffin's.

As Bohanon prepares to be the new leader of the Bears' offense, Aranda is excited to see what he can do.

"I'd like to see Gerry get into a rhythm," Aranda said in his press conference. "I'd like to see Gerry gain confidence. I'd like to see him take control of the team on a Saturday night ... and full confidence that he's going to do that, and excited to see him do that."

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