

BAYLOR

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OUTLOOK

2006-2007 OUTLOOK

The playing field is level. Finally.

For the first time in head coach **Scott Drew**'s four seasons at Baylor, the Bears will take the court in 2006-07 with a full roster and play a complete schedule. After playing three seasons handicapped by depleted roster numbers and last season's abbreviated schedule (continued sanctions brought on by the previous coaching staff), Baylor's program will no longer be competing with one figurative hand tied behind its back.

"We are finally on a level playing field with a full roster that includes players that have had some Big 12 experience now," Drew said. "We're optimistic about that. With the way we finished last year it gives people reason to be excited."

There are plenty of reasons for Drew and Bear fans to be excited in 2006-07. The Baylor roster is stocked with talented, young players – the result of three consecutive national top 20 recruiting classes.

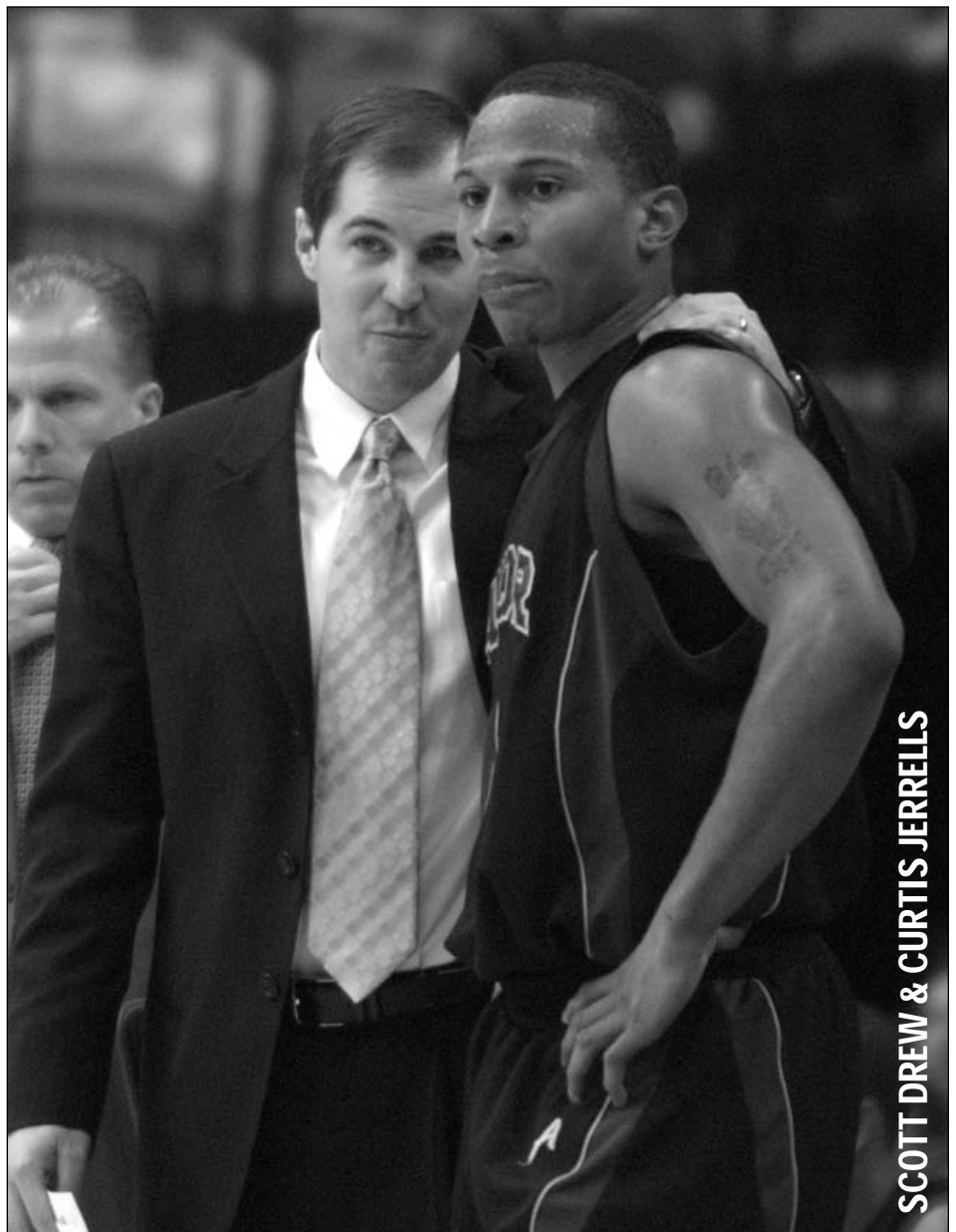
"The good news this year is that we return a lot of players," Drew said, "the downside is that we're still relatively young – one of the youngest teams in the country."

Despite its youth – Baylor's roster includes nine freshmen and sophomores – the Bears return 10 of 12 players from last season's young, overachieving team, including four starters. In 2006-07, Baylor returns more than 87 percent of the previous sea-

son's scoring numbers and more than 84 percent of its rebounding.

"This is our deepest, most athletic and most talented team we've had since we've been here," Drew said.

Back for Baylor in 2006-07 is its talented young core – 10 returnees led by junior Aaron Bruce and sophomores Mamadou Diene and Curtis Jerrells – which will be joined by a trio of freshman signees rated by *Rivals.com* as



SCOTT DREW & CURTIS JERRELLS

“

LISTEN WHEN I SAY THAT BAYLOR TEAM IS GOING TO BE HEARD FROM NEXT YEAR AND IN THE COMING YEARS. THERE'S A LOT OF TALENT THERE.

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**-BILL SELF
KANSAS HEAD COACH**



AARON BRUCE

the nation's No. 17 recruiting class (Tweety Carter, Josh Lomers and Penny Thiam).

Baylor's success in 2006-07 will likely hinge on the development of its frontcourt, where the Bears' youth and inexperience is most evident.

"The strength of our team is our guard play," Drew said. "Our frontline is talented but still young and developing."

The Bears' young frontline players, including Diene, Kevin Rogers, Thiam, Lomers and Jari Vanttaja, will be looked upon to establish an inside presence in order for Baylor to compete in the Big 12 Conference.

The Bears' 2006-07 schedule is complete with a full non-conference slate, including a spot in the NIT Season Tip-Off, where Baylor will face Colorado State and either Gonzaga or Rice in two games at the tournament's West Region in Spokane, Wash. The non-conference schedule includes a trip to the Carrier Dome to face Syracuse.

The schedule also features the annual grueling run through the Big 12 Conference. Games at the Ferrell Center against Kansas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech highlight the home schedule.

"We have a non-conference schedule with a mix of home games and challenging road contests that should prepare our young

squad for the Big 12," Drew said, "which is a benefit we didn't enjoy last season."

Following is a breakdown by position of the 2006-07 Baylor squad:

GUARDS					
Player	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	PPG	APG
Aaron Bruce	Jr.	6-3	190	13.1	3.2
Tweety Carter	Fr.	5-10	185		
Henry Dugat	So.	6-0	170	7.2	1.3
Curtis Jerrells	So.	6-1	195	13.5	3.3
Carl Sims	So.	5-10	170	1.8	0.2

The strength of the 2006-07 Baylor squad is clear: its backcourt.

"Our perimeter players can compete with anyone in the country," Drew said.

Baylor returns its starting backcourt of Aaron Bruce and Curtis Jerrells, former freshmen All-Americans in 2004-05 and 2005-06, respectively. The duo finished as the team's top two scorers last season and should again be the team's catalysts.

Bruce's (6-3, Jr.) stat figures dropped slightly in 2005-06 from his sensational freshman season in which he was the team's main offensive weapon. The Australian averaged 13.1 points and 3.2 assists as a sophomore and was named honorable mention All-Big 12 despite playing the season with nagging leg injuries.

"Aaron continues to establish himself in a leadership role for our program," Drew said. "Now that he is healthy we look for him to have a great year."

Jerrells (6-1, So.) is coming off a stellar freshman campaign in which he exceeded all expectations by leading the Bears in points (13.5 ppg), assists (3.3 apg), steals (1.4 spg) and minutes played (33.4 mpg). The lefty was a consensus choice on Big 12 All-Freshman teams and was named to *CollegeInsider.com's* Freshman All-America squad.

"We look for CJ to continue to build upon a great freshman year," Drew said. "His size and quickness make it tough to defend him – along with his consistent outside jumper. We look for him to take more of a leadership role this season."

Also in the regular rotation is second-year player **Henry Dugat (6-0, So.)**, a lightning-quick guard who gave fans glimpses of scoring prowess as a freshman last season. Dugat averaged 7.2 points and played in 15 of 17 games (missed two due to injury).

"Henry has improved physically and has more confidence," Drew said. "We're looking for him to be more consistent with his offensive game this season. He showed flashes of great offensive production last year and we just look for him to do that on a more consistent basis."

A much-anticipated addition to the backcourt is true freshman **Tweety Carter (5-10, Fr.)**. Carter, arguably the top recruit in Baylor basketball history, is a McDonald's and *Parade* All-American from Reserve Christian School in Reserve, La. Carter scored 7,457 points in high school, the highest total in

U.S. prep history.

"Tweety brings a wealth of experience, having played several years against high-level competition in high school," Drew said. "He will need to get used to stopping players that are as good as he is, offensively, every night."

Carter is expected to see playing time at both guard positions.

"Baylor fans will love his long-range

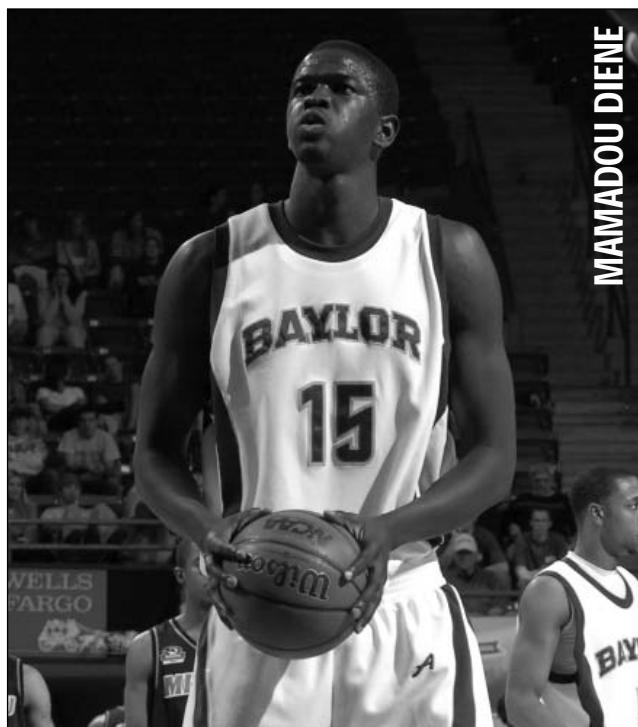
shooting," Drew said of Carter, who set the national single-season 3-point record, hitting 287 3-point field goals as a senior in 2005-06.

Providing depth at guard is sophomore walk-on **Carl Sims (5-10, So.)**, a scholarship football player. Sims, a Waco native, played 10 games and averaged 1.8 points as a true freshman in 2005-06.

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IT WOULD FALL UNDER THE CATEGORY
OF MOST AMAZING TURNAROUNDS
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COULD BE ON THE VERGE OF HAVING THE
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NCAA-SHORTENED, 17-GAME, FOUR-WIN
SEASON – READY TO CRACK THE UPPER
HALF OF THE BIG 12 STANDINGS.
”

-CBSCOLLEGESPORTSLINE.COM
COLLEGE PREVIEW

SEASON PREVIEW



MAMADOU DIENE

former LSU transfer averaged 3.4 points and 2.8 rebounds last season. Bush is an option at the small or power forward position.

"Tim will be counted on for leadership this season," Drew said. "He is a two-year starter with plenty of experience."

A potential surprise on the Bears' roster is true freshman **Thiam (6-9, Fr.)** from Stoneridge Prep in California. A Senegal native, Thiam played his final season of high school basketball in the U.S. and was rated a top-100 national recruit.

Baylor's coaching staff is excited about Thiam's potential, due to the fact that he grew seven inches over his final two prep seasons.

"Penny is long and athletic and will make some spectacular plays both offensively and defensively," Drew said. "Baylor fans will appreciate his versatility, he can play anywhere from the 1 to the 4."

Another option on the wing is third-year forward **Richard Hurd (6-5, Jr.)**. Hurd averaged 0.3 points in 10 games played as a sophomore in 2005-06 and is a career 41-percent 3-point shooter.

Kevin Rogers (6-9, So.) is the likely replacement for departed starter Tommy Swanson at power forward. The athletic forward, who averaged 6.1 points and 4.0 rebounds off the bench as a true freshman last season, provided many memorable highlight plays for the fans.

"We look for Kevin to assume a bigger role in his second season," Drew said. "He will continue to improve and being able to play non-conference games will really help him prepare for the Big 12 season – a luxury he wasn't afforded last year."

Also vying for minutes at the 4 are Bush and redshirt freshman Jari Vanttaja.

After a season on the bench, **Vanttaja (6-10, RFr.)**, a native of Finland, will make his Baylor debut this season. Following a red-shirt season at Baylor, Vanttaja spent the summer of 2006 playing for the Finnish national team.

"Jari can stretch defenses with his long-distance shooting," Drew said.

2006-2007 PRESEASON HONORS

AARON BRUCE

All-Big 12, second team, *ESPN.com Insider*

All-Big 12, second team, *CBSsportsline.com*

All-Big 12, third team, *Athlon*

CURTIS JERRELLS

All-Big 12, second team, *Lindy's*

All-Big 12, second team, *ESPN.com Insider*

Big 12 "Most Underrated Player" in Big 12, *Athlon*

No. 10, "Have you heard of these guys?", *Lindy's*

No. 20 PG nationally, *Lindy's*

Veteran **Mark Shepherd (6-9, Jr.)** provides an experienced reserve to the frontcourt. The third-year lefty averaged 0.8 points and 0.8 rebounds in 10 games off the bench last season.

FORWARDS

Player	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	PPG	RPG
Tim Bush	Sr.	6-6	245	3.4	2.8
Patrick Fields	Sr.	6-6	210	8.3	1.8
Richard Hurd	Jr.	6-5	205	0.3	0.7
Kevin Rogers	So.	6-9	235	6.1	4.0
Mark Shepherd	Jr.	6-9	225	0.8	0.8
Penny Thiam	Fr.	6-9	195		
Jari Vanttaja	RFr.	6-10	235		

Drew points to the inexperience of his frontcourt, and its need for development, as one key to the 2006-07 season. He has several options at the small forward position (including the option to play a three-guard lineup).

Competing for minutes at the 3 will be veterans Patrick Fields and Tim Bush as well as newcomer Djibril "Penny" Thiam.

Fields (6-6, Sr.) is a third-year wing with a penchant for scoring. He finished third on the squad last season in scoring, averaging 8.3 points and shooting 45 percent from 3-point range off the bench.

"Pat has proven that he can score at the Big 12 level," Drew said. "He makes things happen. We look for Pat to continue to put up numbers."

Bush (6-6, Sr.) has started 41 straight games since becoming eligible at Baylor midway through his sophomore season. The

CENTERS

Player	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	PPG	RPG
Mamadou Diene	So.	7-0	255	3.2	5.8
Josh Lomers	Fr.	7-0	265		

Returning to anchor the center position is third-year sophomore **Mamadou Diene (7-0, So.)**. Diene started all 17 games last season and led the Big 12 with 2.2 blocks per game (the nation's second-highest average among freshmen). He averaged 3.2 points and a team-high 5.8 rebounds as a redshirt freshman.

The youngster from Senegal, who turned 19 over the summer, is a Ferrell Center crowd favorite and referred to by Baylor coaches as "The Mayor."

"Mamadou continues to add weight to his frame and we look for him to improve his stats each year," Drew said. "We especially look for him to increase his offensive production as he continues to develop."

Filling the backup role at center is true freshman **Josh Lomers (7-0, Fr.)** from Boerne (Texas) High School. Lomers is a consensus national top-100 recruit rated No. 56 by *Rivals.com*.

"Josh is a very physical player who doesn't mind contact and doesn't mind taking a pounding," Drew said. "He brings instant size to the roster. He will improve as he adapts to the speed of the college game."

FULL ROSTER, FULL SCHEDULE

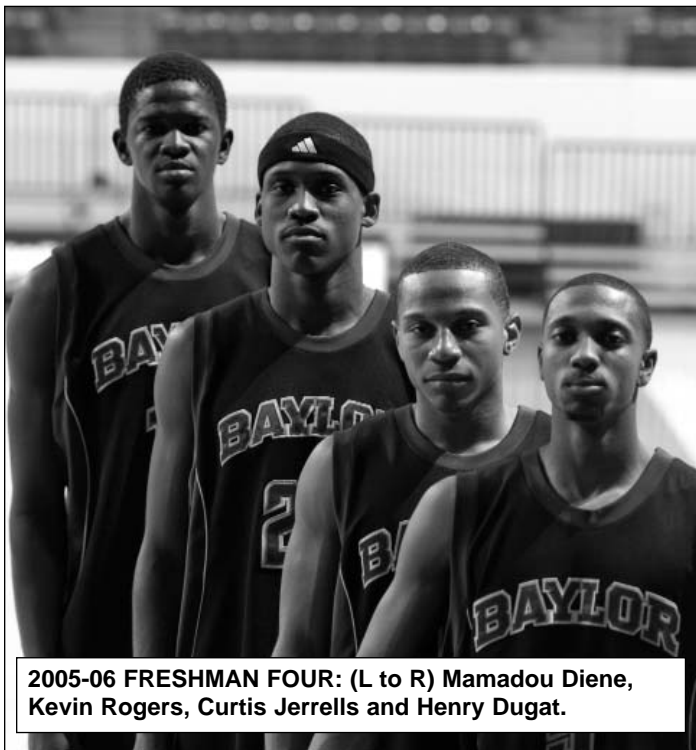
For the first time in four seasons since taking over at Baylor, head coach **Scott Drew** has both a full allotment of scholarships available and a complete schedule to play. For three seasons the Bears have played through handicaps: in each of the first three years the program was playing with scholarship limits; last season, the Bears were stripped of playing a non-conference schedule (all results of sanctions brought on by the previous coaching staff). In 2006-07 Baylor has 13 scholarships available to use and will play a full schedule.

BEARS STILL YOUNG

Despite returning 11 of last season's 13 players, the Bears will still field a relatively young squad in 2006-07. Baylor's roster includes just two seniors and three juniors compared to nine freshmen and sophomores. [Note: Underclassmen have led Baylor in scoring in 39 of its last 44 games (over last two seasons); in 27 of those 44 a freshman has been top scorer.]

"FRESHMAN FOUR" BACK FOR SOPHOMORE SEASON

Back for their sophomore seasons is Baylor's 2005-06 rookie quartet of **Mamadou Diene**, **Henry Dugat**, **Curtis Jerrells** and **Kevin Rogers**, nicknamed the "Freshman Four" (pictured below). The four were huge contributors last season, when they combined to account for 46 percent of the team's scoring, 51 percent of rebounds, 49 percent of assists and 49 percent of minutes played.



2005-06 FRESHMAN FOUR: (L to R) Mamadou Diene, Kevin Rogers, Curtis Jerrells and Henry Dugat.

INTERNATIONAL ROSTER

Baylor's 14-man, 2006-07 roster boasts 10 Americans and four players from overseas. The four international student-athletes include junior **Aaron Bruce** (native of Australia), sophomore **Mamadou Diene** (native of Senegal), redshirt freshman **Jari Vanttaja** (native of Finland) and true freshman **Penny Thiam** (native of Senegal).

RECRUITING CLASS RATED 17TH NATIONALLY

Baylor's 2006 signee class was rated the nation's 17th-best class by *Rivals.com* and is made up of a trio of freshman, all top-100 national recruits. The signees include **Demond "Tweety" Carter** of Reserve Christian School (Reserve, La.), **Josh Lomers** of Boerne (Texas) High School and **Djibril "Penny" Thiam** of Stoneridge Prep (Tarzana, Calif.).

BAYLOR 2006 SIGNEES:

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown (Schools)
Tweety Carter	G	5-10	185	Fr.	Reserve, La. (Reserve Christian School)
Josh Lomers	C	7-0	265	Fr.	Boerne, Texas (Boerne HS)
Djibril "Penny" Thiam	F	6-9	195	Fr.	Dakar, Senegal (Stoneridge [Calif.] Prep)

THE YOUNG "MAYOR" BIG 12's TOP SHOT-BLOCKER

Mamadou Diene, a seven-foot sophomore from Senegal, established himself in his rookie season as the Big 12's top shot-blocker and is on pace to be the second-most prolific swatter in Baylor history. Diene averaged a league-leading 2.2 blocks per game and is second on the school's career blocks-per-game chart trailing only current Milwaukee Buck **Brian Skinner's** 3.36 average (1994-98). Diene, referred to as "The Mayor" by the Baylor coaching staff due to his huge popularity across campus, averaged 3.2 points and 5.8 rebounds (13th in the Big 12) as a freshman. The 19-year-old Diene (pictured at right throwing the first-pitch at a Baylor baseball game) has gained more than 55 pounds since his arrival in the United States in Jan. 2005 weighing 197 pounds.



MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

- Baylor returns its starting backcourt of **Aaron Bruce** (Jr.) and **Curtis Jerrells** (So.), both former Freshman All-Americans.
- Sophomore **Mamadou Diene** had at least one block in all 17 games as a freshman in 2005-06.
- Junior guard **Aaron Bruce** played for the Australia national team last summer that finished tied for ninth place in the 2006 FIBA World Championships in Japan.
- Two Baylor players were formerly at other Division I schools. Senior **Tim Bush** played 10 games as a freshman at LSU in 2002-03 and senior **Patrick Fields** was a redshirt at Mississippi in 2002-03.
- Baylor is 15-3 when scoring 70-plus points in **Scott Drew** Era; 3 seasons.
- True freshman **Tweety Carter** is Baylor's first-ever McDonald's All-America signee.
- Baylor's last three recruiting classes have all been rated Top-20 nationally: 2006 No. 17 (*Rivals.com*); 2005 No. 11 (*Rivals.com*); and 2004 No. 10 (*Hoopscoop.com*).
- Baylor teams have made at least one 3-point basket in 422 straight games.
- Junior **Aaron Bruce** has started all 45 games of his career; senior **Tim Bush** has started 41 straight games at Baylor since gaining his eligibility midway through his sophomore season.
- Eight of the 14 players on Baylor's roster are Texas natives.

RECRUITING SUCCESS

BAYLOR RECRUITING SUCCESS

2004

Roscoe Biggers, Aaron Bruce, Mamadou Diene, Patrick Fields, Kevis Shipman

#10 HoopScoop.com, #11 Basketball News

In an abbreviated first year of recruiting, Baylor's recently hired coaching staff landed one of the most highly regarded signing classes in recent memory. The group, highlighted by international freshmen **Aaron Bruce** (Australia) and **Mamadou Diene** (Senegal), was rated the nation's 10th-best recruiting class by *HoopScoop.com* and the No. 11 class by *Basketball News*.
[Big 12 rankings: #3 *HoopScoop.com*, #4 *Basketball News*]

“
...DESPITE NCAA SANCTIONS, DREW HAS RECRUITED WELL, AND IT SHOULD BEGIN PAYING OFF THIS SEASON.
”

-ATHLON SPORTS



BAYLOR 2005 SIGNING CLASS (L to R): Curtis Jerrells, Kevin Rogers, Jari Vanttaja, Henry Dugat.

2005

Henry Dugat, Curtis Jerrells, Kevin Rogers, Jari Vanttaja

#11 Rivals.com, #17 HoopScoop.com, #20 Scout.com

Baylor's 2005 signing class was rated No. 11 nationally by *Rivals.com* and was a consensus top-20 group. The class included three national top-100 players (**Henry Dugat**, **Curtis Jerrells**, and **Kevin Rogers**) and a top international recruit (**Jari Vanttaja**).
[Big 12 rankings: #3 *Rivals.com*, #3 *Scout.com*, #5 *HoopScoop.com*]

2006

Tweety Carter, Josh Lomers, Penny Thiam
#17 Rivals.com

Baylor's 2006 signing class was rated the nation's 17th-best class by *Rivals.com* and is made up of a trio of freshman, all top-100 national recruits. The signees include **Demond "Tweety" Carter** of

Reserve Christian School (Reserve, La.), **Josh Lomers** of Boerne (Texas) High School and **Djibril "Penny" Thiam** of Stoneridge Prep (Tarzana, Calif.).
[Big 12 rankings: #3 *Rivals.com*, #5 *Athlon Sports*]

MOREFIELD RATED AMONG NATION'S TOP RECRUITERS

Baylor assistant **Mark Morefield** has twice been named to *Rivals.com's* "Top 25 Recruiters" list, in 2005 and 2006.

"Morefield has helped raise the Bears' program from the ashes with his recruiting efforts." -*Rivals.com*



BAYLOR 2006 SIGNING CLASS (L to R): Penny Thiam, Tweety Carter and Josh Lomers.

