

2005-06 OUTLOOK

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1906 BAYLOR BASKETBALL 2006

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2005-2006 OUTLOOK

The good news for Baylor basketball in its centennial season of 2005-2006 is that the Bears will field a nearly full, albeit young, squad for the first time in **Scott Drew's** three seasons. The bad news is that Baylor will only play half a season due to NCAA sanctions brought on by the former coaching staff.

So for the third straight season, Drew's team is saddled with an unprecedented task. After two seasons of playing with half a team (Baylor has dressed seven or fewer scholarship players for 57 straight games), the Bears will now become the first team in modern-day college basketball history to play a regular-season schedule with no non-conference games.

"We're in uncharted waters again," Drew said. "We've been the first two seasons with half a team on scholarship and a bunch of walk-ons playing; and we'll be in uncharted water this season starting an abbreviated schedule in January. You can't call anyone and ask them, 'How do you handle half a season?' It's never happened before."

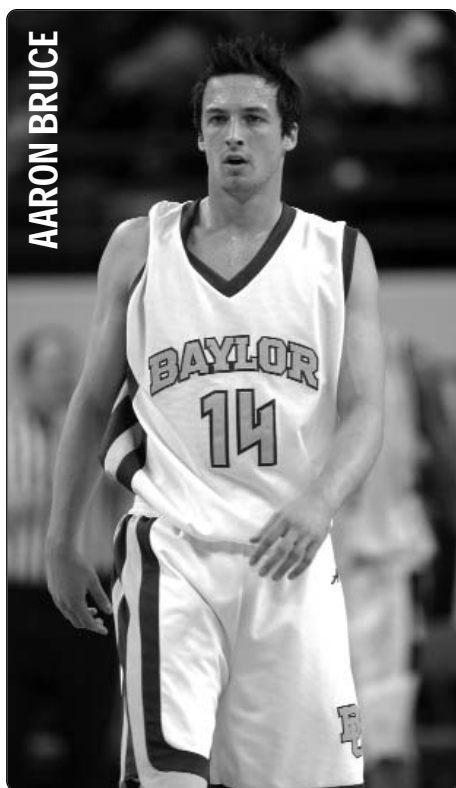
The squad Drew will debut during conference play is by far his most talented, but is heavy on youth and newcomers. The 13-man preseason roster lists nine underclassmen, including seven players who have yet to dress for a game, and just two seniors.

"We face the challenges that are raised from playing half a season and the uncertainties that are raised in half a season; as far as playing time, roles and chemistry," Drew said. "It's a very talented team, but it's a very young team."

In addition to the influx of newcomers, Baylor will return the core of last season's team. Baylor returns 93 percent of its scoring and 90 percent of its rebounding from the 2004-2005 squad, which was the least experienced in the nation (the 2004-2005 Bears returned only one scholarship player and



SCOTT DREW & KEVIS SHIPMAN



AARON BRUCE

scrapped their way to a 9-19 season).

"We're an unknown," Drew said. "Just like professional teams that make huge moves in the off-season, you have no idea how they are going to respond or how long it is going to take them to jell. With the changes we've had and with the new guys coming in and without time to adjust, it's hard to tell."

In year three of the Drew Era the Bears will carry a near-full compliment of 11 scholarship players – two shy of the maximum. Back are seven of Baylor's eight regular players (including sophomore **Aaron Bruce**, the nation's top-scoring freshman last season) and a seven-footer who redshirted last year (**Mamadou Diene**). They will be joined by the school's most highly thought of recruiting class in recent memory.

The incoming recruiting class, rated the nation's 11th-best class by *Rivals* and No. 17 by *HoopScoop*, includes three national top-100 high school freshmen (**Henry Dugat**, **Curtis Jerrells** and **Kevin Rogers**) and what some have referred to as the top international signee (**Jari Vanttaja**).

The group will join Diene and five returning scholarship players to give Drew his first legitimate basketball squad in three seasons at Baylor.

"Our biggest obstacle last year was our lack of height," Drew said of having just one scholarship player taller than 6-6. "This year we are in a situation where we have five guys over 6-foot-6 and we have guys that can rebound. So we've answered that question. We have height and we have athleticism and we have talent."

Baylor is celebrating its basketball centennial this season, the school's 100th year of play since its first recognized season in 1906-1907.

GUARDS

Player	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	PPG	APG
Aaron Bruce	So.	6-3	195	18.2	3.8
Henry Dugat	Fr.	6-0	170		
Curtis Jerrells	Fr.	6-1	200		
Kevis Shipman	Sr.	6-0	170	4.8	0.7
Carl Sims	Fr.	5-10	165		

Back to lead the Bears and run the offense from the point is All-America and Big 12 Player of the Year candidate **Aaron Bruce (6-3, So.)**, the only Bear to start all 28 games last season. Bruce, a freshman All-American last season who led the nation's freshmen in scoring with 18.2 points per game, led the Bears in scoring, minutes (34.8 mpg), assists (3.8 apg), 3-pointers (69), free throws (96) and free throw percentage (82.8%).

"Aaron is one of those players that can make other players around him look better," Drew said.

Bruce, an All-Big 12 honoree last season, spent the summer playing on and serving as captain of Australia's under-21 national squad.

"Aaron will get a chance this year to display his passing ability more," Drew said. "With added talent and depth around him we expect Aaron's assists to increase. He is great at getting out in transition, and he'll be able to get out now that he won't have to have the rebounding responsibility he had before. Aaron can throw up some double-double numbers now."

Candidates to man the shooting guard position are returnee Kevis Shipman and two

highly regarded true freshman, Henry Dugat and Curtis Jerrells.

The strongest contender is likely **Dugat (6-0, Fr.)**, a true freshman from Dayton (Texas) High School. The speedy Dugat, rated the No. 74 recruit nationally by *Rivals*, averaged 25.5 at Dayton as a senior last season.

"Henry is going to be a crowd favorite, as far as the excitement he can bring to the court," Drew said. "Plus he has a pretty good feel for the game."

Jerrells (6-1, Fr.) is a true freshman from Del Valle High School in Austin, Texas. Jerrells was rated the seventh-best recruit in the state by *Texas Roundball* after averaging 20.2 points as a senior in 2004-2005.

"Curtis

already has a Big 12 body,"

Drew

said.

"He's

done a

great job

in prepar-

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self and

he is

capable

of scor-

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bunch-

es."

A lefty,

Jerrells is

expected

to see

signifi-

cant min-

utes at

both

guard positions.

Shipman (6-0, Sr.) started the first 19 games last season at the two guard and came off the bench for the final nine contests. The former junior college transfer averaged 4.8 points and shot 36.2 percent from the 3-point line in his first season at Baylor.

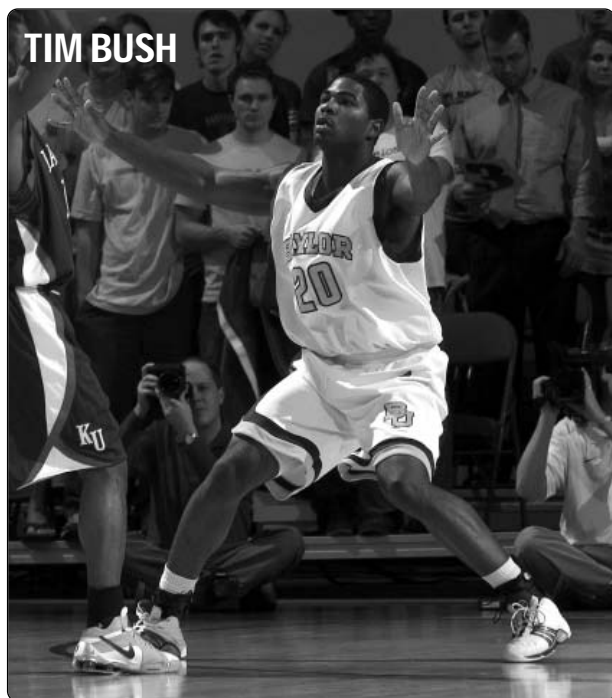
"Kevis is a great shooter," Drew said. "He is one of the best stand-still shooters in the league."

Providing depth at guard is freshman walk-on **Carl Sims (5-10, Fr.)** from Waco High School. A scholarship wide receiver for the Bears football team, Sims was a two-sport star at Waco.

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COLLEGE PREVIEW





TIM BUSH

season," Drew said. "With experience hopefully he can become more consistent."

Rogers (6-9, Fr.) is expected to make an immediate contribution as a true freshman. The standout from South Oak Cliff in Dallas, Texas, is Baylor's highest-rated recruit in recent memory. A powerful left-hander, Rogers averaged 15.5 points and eight rebounds in helping SOC to the Texas 4A state championship last spring.

"Kevin has a knack for scoring," Drew said. "He is a great athlete with tremendous potential."

An additional possibility at the 3 includes second-year sophomore Richard Hurd.

Hurd (6-5, So.) played 17 minutes a game and made 10 starts last season as a true freshman walk-on.

"Richard drastically improved from the first game to the end of the season last year," Drew said. "He provides athleticism and aggressive play on the court and has a nose for the ball."

Options at power forward include veterans Tommy Swanson and Bush, and newcomers Rogers and Jari Vanttaja.

Vanttaja (6-10, Fr.) is a 19-year-old from Oulu, Finland and a veteran of international competition with his country's junior national teams. The true freshman has been compared to fellow Finn Hanno Mottola, a former Utah Ute and Atlanta Hawk.

"Jari can handle the ball, he can shoot, and he has size," Drew said.

Second-year walk-on **Mark Shepherd (6-9, So.)** adds depth to the frontcourt. Shepherd averaged 2.1 points and 2.1 rebounds in 14.0 minutes last season as a freshman.

"Mark has really improved since arriving here," Drew said. "He plays tremendously hard."

FORWARDS

Player	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	PPG	RPG
Tim Bush	Jr.	6-6	235	12.7	5.4
Patrick Fields	Jr.	6-6	205	11.1	3.9
Richard Hurd	So.	6-5	205	4.0	2.1
Kevin Rogers	Fr.	6-9	235		
Mark Shepherd	So.	6-9	210	2.1	2.1
Tommy Swanson	Sr.	6-10	225	11.9	5.8
Jari Vanttaja	Fr.	6-10	220		

As Drew mentioned, the added height on his roster will allow some flexibility and choices in the frontcourt.

The majority of the minutes at the small forward position are likely to be split between returnees Tim Bush and Patrick Fields as well as newcomer Kevin Rogers.

Bush (6-6, Jr.) started all 24 games after becoming eligible following the first semester last season. The former transfer from LSU was named to the Big 12 All-Newcomer team after averaging 12.7 points and 5.4 rebounds.

"Now that Tim has had a year to adjust to his weight loss and has improved his perimeter play, we look for him to take another step up," Drew said of the 40-pound weight drop Bush sustained throughout last year and the off-season.

Fields (6-6, Jr.) is a second-year wing who started 18 of the first 19 games last season. He averaged 11.1 points and totaled 19 double-digit scoring games.

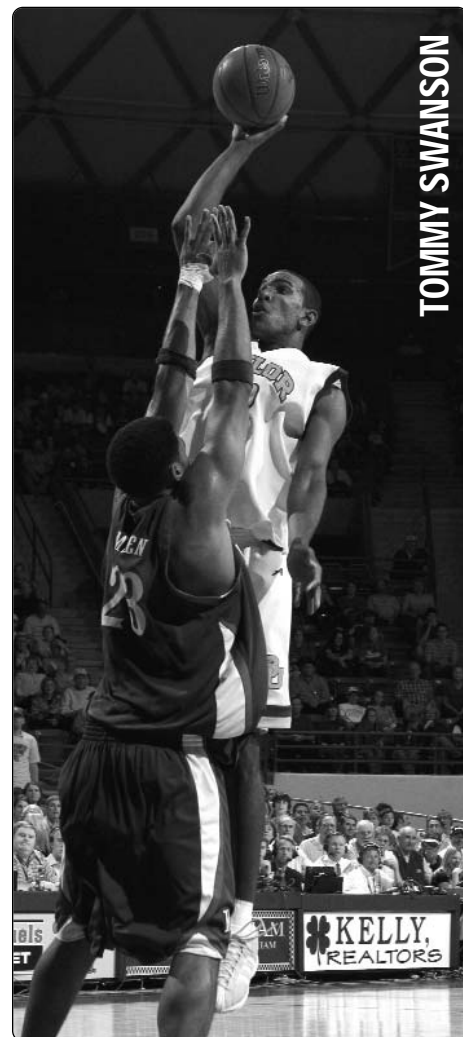
"Pat played really well in stretches last

Swanson (6-10, Sr.) is a fourth-year senior with 53 starts under his belt. Swanson averaged 11.9 points and a team-high 5.8 rebounds as a junior in 2004-2005.

"Hopefully now with some added size around him, Tommy won't have to carry the brunt of the rebounding and the dirty work inside," Drew said. "That should allow him to expand his game a little bit outside the lane and have some help on the glass."

After redshirting last season, freshman **Diene (7-0, RFr.)** will suit up in green and gold for the first time in 2005-2006. The talented youngster arrived in the United States in January 2005 and practiced with the team over the second half of last season. Diene has succeeded in adding 40 pounds to his slender frame since arriving last winter as a sub-200-pound true freshman.

"Mamadou has improved more than any player since he got here," Drew said. "He is a good rebounder with nice touch. We look forward to him getting bigger and stronger."



TOMMY SWANSON

CENTERS

Player	Yr.	Ht.	Wt.	PPG	RPG
Mamadou Diene	RFr.	7-0	240		
Tommy Swanson	Sr.	6-10	225	11.9	5.8
Jari Vanttaja	Fr.	6-10	220		

At center, Drew's options include Swanson, redshirt freshman Mamadou Diene and Vanttaja.



MORE BRUCE ALMIGHTY

The Bears will once again be led by sophomore guard **Aaron Bruce**, coming off a sensational rookie year in which he led the nation's freshmen in scoring and earned All-Big 12 and Freshman All-American accolades. Bruce, an All-America and Big 12 Player of the Year candidate, is the league's leading returning scorer (18.2 ppg). He spent the summer leading his country as captain of the under-21 Australian national team. Baylor coaches expect his over-all play to improve in 2005-2006 with the increase in talent level of his teammates.

HALF A SEASON

Due to NCAA sanctions brought on by the previous coaching staff, Baylor will not play any regular-season non-conference games this season (thought to be unprecedented in modern-day college basketball). The Bears will begin practice Oct. 15 as usual but will not suit up for a game until a January 11 contest at Texas Tech.

PLENTY OF NEWCOMERS

Baylor's 2005-2006 roster lists five newcomers and a redshirt who has yet to dress for a game. The six rookies include five true freshmen [**Henry Dugat**, **Curtis Jerrells**, **Kevin Rogers**, **Carl Sims** and **Jari Vanttaja**] and one redshirt freshman [**Mamadou Diene**].

RECRUITING CLASS RATED 11TH NATIONALLY

Baylor's 2005 signee class was rated the nation's 11th-best class by *Rivals* and No. 17 according to *HoopScoop*. The class includes three national Top-100 freshmen and a top international signee. The signees include four prep seniors, **Henry Dugat** of Dayton (Texas) High School, **Curtis Jerrells** of Del Valle High School in Austin, Texas and **Kevin Rogers** of South Oak Cliff High School in Dallas; as well as **Jari Vanttaja** of Oulu, Finland.

PRESEASON HONORS

Aaron Bruce is rated the eighth-best point guard nationally by CBSSportsline.com and No. 12 in *Lindy's* preseason publication and is also honored with the league's "Best Instincts" by *Street & Smith's* magazine. The sophomore was also projected an All-Big 12 honoree by *Lindy's* and *Athlon*. Baylor freshman **Kevin Rogers** was named the Big 12's "No. 1 Signing Coup" by *Lindy's* and *Rivals*, as well as being tabbed a "Top 100 College Freshman" by *Street & Smith's*.

SWANSON'S SENIOR EXPERIENCE A RARITY

Fourth-year senior **Tommy Swanson** enters the 2005-2006 season as not only the most experienced member of the Bear squad – he's also a rare veteran in Baylor's recent basketball history. This winter Swanson becomes just the second BU player in the last six years to enter his senior season with more than 60 career games played as a Bear (Swanson has 73 GP; joins former teammate **Matt Sayman**).

BEARS RETURN RARE EXPERIENCE

Baylor returns four starters (**Aaron Bruce**, **Tim Bush**, **Richard Hurd** and **Tommy Swanson**) and seven lettermen (four starters plus **Patrick Fields**, **Mark Shepherd** and **Kevis Shipman**) from last year's young and inexperienced squad that finished 9-19. The four returning starters is the highest total for a Bear team since 1996-1997, when head coach **Harry Miller** returned four starters from a 9-18 squad and finished 18-12 in the first season of the Big 12 Conference. The 2005-2006 Bears return 93 percent of last season's scoring and 90 percent of their rebounding.

BEARS REACH NEW HEIGHTS... LITERALLY

Unlike last season when Baylor's roster had a noticeable lack of height – with only two players taller than 6-6 (one a walk-on) – the 2005-2006 roster boasts five such players: **Kevin Rogers** (6-9), **Mark Shepherd** (6-9), **Tommy Swanson** (6-10), **Jari Vanttaja** (6-10) and **Mamadou Diene** (7-0).

TOP FREE THROW SHOOTING

Baylor boasts the top two returning free throw shooters in the Big 12 Conference in 2005-2006. **Tim Bush** ranked second in the league last season with an 83.3 percent ratio and teammate **Aaron Bruce** placed third in the conference at 82.8 percent. As a team, Baylor ranked third in the Big 12 with a 69.8 free throw percentage.

INTERNATIONAL ROSTER

Baylor's 13-man 2005-2006 roster boasts 10 Americans and three players from overseas. The three, all signed by **Scott Drew** in the last two years, include sophomore **Aaron Bruce** (native of Australia), redshirt freshman **Mamadou Diene** (native of Senegal) and freshman **Jari Vanttaja** (native of Finland).

SHORTEST SEASON SINCE...

Baylor will play a minimum of 17 games this season (16-game Big 12 schedule plus at least one game in Big 12 Championship). The last time the Bears played fewer than 21 games in a season was 1944-45, when Baylor finished 0-17.

DEPARTED PLAYERS

Baylor lost four lettermen from its 2004-05 roster: three walk-ons (freshmen guards **Hall Henderson** and **Turner Phipps**, and senior guard **Ryan Pryor**) and sophomore guard **Roscoe Biggers**.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

- For the third straight year, Baylor enters the season without its full allotment of scholarships. In 2005-2006 the Bears have 12 available scholarships (10 filled heading into fall practice). BU dressed seven or fewer scholarship players in each of the last two seasons.
- **Tim Bush** ranks fourth all-time on the Big 12's free throw percentage listing for conference games (86.0 percent).
- Sophomore **Richard Hurd**'s older brother **Lamar Hurd** is the starting point guard at Oregon State.
- Two Bear players were formerly at other Division I schools. Junior **Tim Bush** played 10 games as a freshman at LSU in 2002-03 and junior **Patrick Fields** was a redshirt at Mississippi in 2002-03.
- Four Baylor players won state championships in high school: **Patrick Fields** (2002 Texas 5A - San Antonio John Jay), **Kevin Rogers** (2005 Texas 4A - Dallas South Oak Cliff), **Mark Shepherd** (2003 Texas private 5A - Austin St. Michael's) and **Kevis Shipman** (2002 Texas 4A - Dallas Lincoln).
- Baylor returns 93 percent of its scoring and 90 percent of its rebounding from the 2004-05 squad, the least experienced team in the nation (the 2004-05 Bears returned only one scholarship player and scrapped their way to a 9-19 season).
- **Aaron Bruce**, the top returning scorer in the Big 12, tied the top single-game scoring total in the conference last season with his 33-point performance vs. OSU (Missouri's Linus Kleiza also posted a 33-point game).
- BU lost its final 14 games of 2004-05, the longest such streak since the 1989-99 Bears lost 17 straight games.
- Nine of the 13 players on Baylor's roster are Texas natives.



BAYLOR RECRUITING SUCCESS

2004: Roscoe Biggers, Aaron Bruce, Mamadou Diene, Patrick Fields, Kevis Shipman

HoopScoop #10, Basketball News #11

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

2004 NATIONAL RECRUITING RANKINGS

HoopScoop	Basketball News
1. Texas	1. Texas
2. Kentucky	2. Kentucky
3. Memphis	3. Louisville
4. Lamar	4. Indiana
5. Oklahoma State	5. Kansas
6. Providence	6. UCLA
7. Florida	7. Providence
7. USC	8. Florida
9. UCLA	9. Missouri
10. Baylor	10. USC
11. Indiana	11. Baylor
12. Middle Tennessee	12. Memphis

BIG 12 RANKINGS (national rank)

HoopScoop	Basketball News	Rivals	CSTV/Hodges
1. Texas (1)	1. Texas (1)	1. Kansas (2)	1. Kansas (2)
2. OSU (5)	2. Kansas (5)	2. Texas (3)	2. Texas (3)
3. Baylor (10)	3. Missouri (9)	3. Missouri (14)	3. Missouri (14)
4. Kansas (14)	4. Baylor (11)	HM. BU, ISU, NU, OSU	4. OSU (25) others BU, ISU, NU

2005: Henry Dugat, Curtis Jerrells, Kevin Rogers, Jari Vanttaja
Rivals #11, HoopScoop #17, Scout.com #20, Bill Hodge/CSTV #20

Baylor's 2005 recruiting class was rated No. 11 nationally by *Rivals* 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**).

2005 NATIONAL RECRUITING RANKINGS

Rivals.com

1. Kansas
2. Oklahoma State
3. Duke
4. Washington
5. North Carolina
6. Louisville
7. Memphis
8. Mississippi State
9. Arizona
10. LSU
11. **Baylor**
12. Alabama

BIG 12 RANKINGS (national rank)

Rivals	HoopScoop	Scout.com	CSTV/Hodges
1. Kansas (1)	1. OSU (1)	1. Kansas (2)	1. Kansas (2)
2. OSU (2)	2. Iowa State (3)	2. OSU (5)	2. OSU (3)
3. Baylor (11)	3. Texas A&M (9)	3. Baylor (20)	3. Baylor (20)
4. Tech (13)	4. Kansas (16)		4. Iowa State (22)
	5. Baylor (17)		



AS THE BEARS CONTINUE TO REBUILD, TOP-NOTCH PLAYERS ARE STARTING TO COMMIT TO COACH SCOTT DREW, WHO AGAIN IS DRAWING RAVE REVIEWS FOR HIS ABILITY TO REVIVE A PROGRAM.



-HOUSTON CHRONICLE



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

LINDY'S 2005-06 PREVIEW (RIVAL.COM)

BIG 12 CONFERENCE

Will take you by surprise: Baylor point guards Henry Dugat and Chris Jerrells. Despite all that has happened to the Bears program over the last two years, Scott Drew and his staff were able to convince both athletic playmakers to come to Waco and they could spark an amazing rebuilding project.

No. 1 signing coup: One of the biggest recruiting surprises of the last few years was Kevin Rogers' decision to sign with Baylor. The highly-regarded 6-8, 220-pound power forward from Dallas had offers from Arizona, Georgia Tech, Kansas, Texas and several other major programs. He's good enough to turn the Bears into a contender in the Big 12 South by next season.

