

## 2008 PREVIEW: BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

Sit down with head coach Marci Jobson for just one minute, and you can't help but get excited. You can see the dreams, the vision and the plan for Baylor soccer's future. It's written all over her face, and you can hear it in her voice. Still, she tries to keep things in perspective because one thing is for sure, talk is cheap.

"Everyone says they want to win, everyone says they want to be a Big 12 champion, but at the end of the day we have to teach them what it takes to get there," Jobson said. "It has to be reiterated everyday for a period of time, and that will create a culture of success. That is what our first season is about, laying the foundation and teaching them our vision."

Jobson should know. She has a list of accolades a mile long, including all-conference selections, conference championships, NCAA Tournament appearances, 10 years of professional experience and being a three-year member of the USA National Team that included a trip to the 2007 World Cup. Her experiences will be vital in establishing the Baylor soccer program as one of the conference's elite.

"I had to work harder than anybody to get where I got in my career," Jobson said. "I had a huge heart and outworked a lot of people around me. I think that is the biggest lesson I can teach our team."

On a team with 16 returning players and 13 newcomers, Jobson and her staff will get to put their stamp on the program early, but it will be up to the seniors (Andi Fagan, Carolyn Lynch, Amanda McGrath and Elena Sutherland) to lead the way.

### FORWARDS

Baylor lost Megan Sherrell, whose nine goals, seven assists and 25 points shot her into the record books in 2007, but Jobson says there is no need for panic.

"This is a great opportunity for some new players to step up," Jobson said. "It's going to be a great opportunity for (sophomore) Lotto Smith, (junior) Katie White and Andi Fagan, along with some of the incoming freshmen."

Smith is the leading returning scorer off the 2007 team after posting five goals in her freshman campaign.

"Whenever you graduate people who had a specific role, it presents a great opportunity for a new, younger generation and class to do the same thing," Jobson said. "Our primary focus is to make sure we are defending well, and then execute our chances when we get them."

### MIDFIELDERS

The key cog to the success of the 2008 Bears will be the midfield. This group will be asked to do it all, from defending, to support and finishing chances in the offensive third of the field.

"A big part of our midfield will be a blue collar, hard working type," Jobson said. "We ask our midfield to go forward and defend. We ask them to win balls in the air, make slide tackles and make big plays. Our midfield has to be willing to work and I think we have some midfielders that have some grittiness to them."

**CAROLYN LYNCH**



One player who has shown a lot of improvement is sophomore Lindsey Johnson. The tallest member of the team at 5-11, the Arlington, Texas, native, will be a mainstay in the lineup.

"LJ has really improved in her air game and I like what she brings to the table," Jobson said. "I think we have some other supporting players who are doing a great job and will help us tremendously."

### DEFENDERS

If there is one word that has been stressed throughout the spring and preseason, it is defense. While all 11 players on the field will be asked to defend, the back line will

make it their mission, and with seniors Lynch and Sutherland in the back, Jobson is confident it will get accomplished.

"I think our defense is going to be critical this year for our team's success," Jobson said. "We have to play great team defense and that will start with our backs. It's great that we have two seniors back there to help anchor."

Since the arrival of the new coaching staff, the squad has worked relentlessly on defending their half and Jobson believes all the hard work will pay off.

"I believe we will continue to build off of what we put in this spring. We are going to have to be unified defensively. We will be younger, but I am confident in our ability to come together and play smart."

### GOALKEEPERS

Baylor will look to a new netminder in 2008, as four-year starter and All-Big 12 goalkeeper Ashley Noah concluded her eligibility last season. Although Noah, the Bears' all-time leader in saves, is gone, Jobson believes she has three goalies ready to step up and step in.

"It will be a great opportunity for this group to make a name for themselves," Jobson said.

Junior Gianna Quintana is the lone goalkeeper with game experience, after seeing action in eight games in 2007, while making two starts. She will have a pair of talented players to contend with as redshirt freshman Courtney Seelhorst and true freshman Catie McGowan look for their place between the posts.

"We started with Courtney and Giana this spring and it will be exciting for all three goalies to battle for position this fall," Jobson said. "I think we have three good goalkeepers and they each bring something different, but at the end of the day, I will be happy with whoever is in there."

### SCHEDULE

The 2008 schedule is highlighted by 11 home games and five contests against teams that participated in the 2007 NCAA Soccer Championship.

"The schedule is tough and we want to use the non-conference to move some players around and figure everything out come conference time," Jobson said. "Hopefully by conference time, everyone will know what their role is and we will be ready to play in one of the top conferences in the country."

Following an exhibition match at home against SMU on Saturday, Aug. 16, the Bears open the 2008 season on the road for the first time since 2004, as they take on UTEP on Aug. 22 at 7 p.m. Another road game follows on Friday, Aug. 29, as Baylor travels to Albuquerque to face New Mexico.

The Bears begin a six-game homestand with their first home game on Sunday, Aug. 31 against Presbyterian. Baylor will then host non-conference games against Prairie View A&M (Sept. 7), Arizona State (Sept. 12), UTSA (Sept. 19) and Houston (Sept. 21) before closing out non-conference action at Texas State (Sept. 26).

Baylor opens the conference schedule with a trio of games at home as the Bears welcome Texas A&M on Sunday, Sept. 28 at 7:00 p.m. followed by contests against Iowa State (Oct. 3) and Nebraska (Oct. 5).

Baylor will host two more home contests, facing Oklahoma State (Oct. 17) and Oklahoma (Oct. 19) to close out the home portion of the schedule.

In addition to the home contests, the Bears will travel to Texas Tech (Oct. 10), Colorado (Oct. 12), Missouri (Oct. 24) and Kansas (Oct. 26) in conference play prior to closing out the regular season at Austin, Texas, against Sweet 16 participant Texas on Friday, Oct. 31.

The 2008 season will mark the first step in a journey to the top for Baylor soccer. That journey is one Jobson and the rest of her staff are ready to embark on with the traits that have gotten them where they are today.

"At the end of the day, we have to become the hardest working bunch," Jobson said. "We have to have huge hearts and sacrifice and work for each other. The thing is, when I say them, they all sound nice and pretty, but to actually teach that on a day-to-day basis is what we as coaches have to do this year. Those are all just words until you really understand what it means to fight it out for your teammates instead of quitting and giving up. We will become the hardest working team and we will have the biggest hearts."