



FRIGID ARRIVAL Junior wide receiver Tripp Mitchell's breath becomes visible as he steps onto the Amon G. Carter Stadium field for the final game of the 2022 season in the frigid 13-degree kickoff temperature.



OFFENSIVE PASS Sophomore quarterback Blake Shapen throws a pass while being protected by fifth-year senior offensive lineman Connor Galvin and sixth-year senior offensive lineman Grant Miller during the first quarter of the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl.



ENTHUSIASTIC CELEBRATION Fifth-year senior safety Christian Morgan energizes the crowd with his celebratory dance. During the Armed Forces Bowl, Morgan contributed seven tackles and received recognition for his achievements by being named Second-Team Academic All-Big 12.



BATTLING COLD

The Golden Wave Band faced challenges during Baylor's coldest kickoff in program history due to freezing temperatures and wind chill. Some instruments, such as clarinets, saxophones, oboes and brass instruments, were affected by the cold, making them impossible to play. To maintain the game's energy, the band used their natural instruments, their voices, and sang their traditional football game tunes. For the halftime performance, the band left the stands early to allow time to thaw instruments in the insulated tunnel. As halftime began, instead of running out immediately as planned, the band opted to wait until the last possible moment to start the show to further thaw frozen reeds in wind instruments. Their patience paid off and they were able to play their entire halftime show as planned.



WE ARE Fighting

BAYLOR FALLS TO AIR FORCE IN FREEZING ARMED FORCES BOWL, ENDS SEASON WITH 6-7 RECORD

The final game of the 2022 season started on a frosty note as the Bears went up against the Air Force Academy in the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl on Dec. 22. The temperature was approximately 13 degrees. Still, with the wind chill factored in, it dropped to about negative 4 degrees. The chilly conditions were unfamiliar to the Bears, as it was the coldest temperature they had ever encountered during kickoff in Fort Worth.

"It's the mindset going into it. [The cold] is a great opposing force coming at you, unrelenting," head coach Dave Aranda said. "This is the 'who wants it most' Bowl. [We need] to fully attack that and to put forth our best effort. We hope to bring all that to life and overcome it." With a 6-6 record, Baylor

IT IS A GREAT OPPOSING FORCE COMING AT YOU, UNRELENTING

kicked off the bowl game against the Air Force, which had a 9-3 record. Senior linebacker Dillon Doyle earned all-conference first or second-team honors on offense and defense in a single season. Freshman Richard Reese was recognized as the Big 12's Offensive Freshman of the Year and proved he was a vital player for the team. Doyle proved his importance during the game by recording a season-high 10 tackles, while Reese only rushed eight times.

"I've looked up my whole life to college football players, and it's been my dream to step out on that stage and do what I've been doing the past few years. It's really the end of an era for me. I feel like I've done what I wanted to do. It's really exciting to me that I've hopefully left a legacy to be proud of," Doyle said.

The Air Force team, which ranked No. 1 in the country for rushing and averaged 330.9 yards per game and 5.4 yards per attempt, didn't seem to be affected by the cold weather as much as the Bears. The Falcons overpowered Baylor on passing yards and accuracy, averaging 14.7 yards per catch with a 57.1 completion percentage mark compared to Baylor's 8.2 yards per catch with only a 47.8 percent accuracy.

"There's a lot to be learned for our returners and younger people. There's a lot to look at and try to emulate," Aranda said.

The 30th annual Armed Forces Bowl closed with a 30-15 score, finishing the season with a Baylor Bear loss. Ultimately ending their 2022 season with a four-game losing streak ended with a 6-7 record, it was clear the Bears did not like the cold.

Story by **Karina Garza**
Spread by **Karina Garza**
Photos by **Josh McSwain**



LINEBACKER DOMINATES Fifth-year senior linebacker Dillon Doyle flexes after a big tackle. Doyle solidified his position as a key player on the team by receiving accolades, such as being named a first-team Academic All-American selection by College Sports Communicators and being voted as the Big 12 Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year by league coaches. "We were disappointed in how we played as defensive players, and that starts with me. I should have pulled up the quarterback a couple of times, but I'm thankful for the opportunity to step out there one last time with those guys," Doyle said.



STOPPING FALCONS Senior starter Al Walcott tackles Air Force Academy junior Falcon running back John Lee Eldridge III. As one of the Baylor's leading tacklers, Walcott closed his season with two stops against the Air Force and finished the year ranked second on the team with 82 tackles.