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September 5, 2009

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## Rams look for another record setting season in 09-10

*Looking for a 3-peat and maybe a whole lot more !!!*

*You would think that, basking in the success of a 29 win season, a second consecutive conference title, a top ten national ranking and a Sweet 16 appearance the Texas Wesleyan Basketball staff would relax and enjoy life for a while: Think again !! The final whistle had barely sounded when long time Texas Wesleyan basketball coaches Terry Waldrop and Brennen Shingleton hit the highways and the phone lines in search of new talent for the 2009-2010 campaign. From all indications it was a very productive summer for the Coaching staff as nine new players were welcomed to campus on Monday August 24<sup>th</sup> along with a solid nucleus of 4 veteran players including All Conference guard Terrell Henry (6'4 Sr from Pearland TX), All Conference forward Hector Mukweyi (6'7 Sr. from Mansfield TX), Cody Waldrop (6'1 Jr. Mansfield TX) and Ryan Glanzer (6'4 So. Carrollton TX). The newcomers are highlighted by several NCAA Division I players including 6'1 Jr. Jeremy Smith (Desoto HS - UTA), 6'8 Power Forward Jeremy Havard (Houston, TX- HBU), and 6'11 Jr. Jeremy Mayfield (Dallas TX- University of Alabama-Birmingham). 6'8 swingman Chris Cooper was an All Conference performer at the*

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## Sweet 16 finish highlights 2008-2009 campaign

*Rams hang back to back banners as Red River Conference Champions*

January 7, 2009 saw Texas Wesleyan run its record to 10-1 and climb to the # 1 spot in the country in the College Fanz/Victory Sports poll and # 5 in the NAIA poll. With impressive victories over #2 Oklahoma Baptist University, a sweep of perennial powerhouse LSU-Shreveport, a win over #15 Belhaven College of Jackson, MS, and a split with #10 Oklahoma Christian the Rams looked poised to roll into conference play in style. What a difference a couple days make; A lackluster second half performance saw the Rams drop their conference opener on the road at Jarvis Christian, and then, two nights later another sub par second half sunk the Rams near Oklahoma City against Langston; Starring 0-2 in the face to open conference the Rams were jolted back to reality in a hurry. With a new sense of urgency and a commitment to physical defensive play the Rams won the last game of their season opening 3 game road swing by defeating a talented Bacone squad in Muskogee OK. That win catapulted the Rams who never looked back and didn't lose another conference game while reeling off 16 consecutive conference wins running away with the league championship. Texas Wesleyan finished with a 16-2 conference slate, a #9 national ranking and its second consecutive Red River Athletic Conference title. Leading the charge for the Rams were Senior All American Chris Berry pouring in 22 points per game, Waxahachie Senior Kenny Gober at 15 points per game, and Junior Terrell Henry at 14 points per outing. The defensive work and rebounding were the catalyst for the success and Australian Ryan Barnes was among the national leaders in pulling down 8 rebounds per game. Junior Hector Mukweyi provided the inside presence by adding 7 rebounds and 1.2 blocks per game as well; Senior post

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University of the Southwest (NM) and is a senior from nearby Bedford, TX. Junior College additions were 6'3 Brian Wannamaker from Lon Morris College by way of Philadelphia, and 6'4 Darren Houliston from Eules via Trinidad (CO) Junior College. Kenneth Graves joins as a junior along with local high school products Kyle McElwaine (Pantego Christian) and Zach Matthews (Fort Worth Pascal). Former Junior Varsity player Slone Starkey rounds out the squad for the fall. On paper the squad looks deep and athletic however Waldrop and Shingleton both know it takes a lot more than talent and athleticism to win at the level the Rams have grown accustomed to in recent years. Waldrop stated "I am very pleased with our guys we have signed and what we have returning. I think its going to be a great balance of old and new. We are an experienced team individually, although it will take a lot of work and some time for all the pieces to fit together where we need it to; I don't think you will see our best basketball until late January and at that point we feel like we could be a pretty formidable opponent."

### Chris Berry- First Team All American

Chris had one of the most successful seasons in Texas Wesleyan Basketball history. His scoring average of 21.7 ranked him 5<sup>th</sup> nationally and he set the all time single season scoring record of 740 points. Berry's high game of the season came on the biggest stage pouring in 36 points in the Rams Sweet 16 game against McKendree University (Illinois). The 36 points were the highest scoring output in the National Championships tournament and Berry was selected as one of the outstanding players in the National Tournament. Chris Berry (Dallas-Seagoville High School) was selected Red River Athletic Conference Player of the Year, Red River Athletic Conference Newcomer of the Year, NAIA First Team All-American, and Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Small College Player of the Year. Chris finished his college career on top and with amazing success; He signed with Billy Gillespie and Texas A&M in high school before attending Lon Morris College and journeying to NCAA Division I St. Francis (PA) for a couple of years. Longing for success and wanting to be near family Chris chose Texas Wesleyan over a host of other schools competing for him and the rest as they say is history. Chris is currently negotiating with several professional teams and looks like he will play professional basketball this year in Austria. He fully expects to return and complete his degree when his professional life allows him to. We wish Chris the best of luck and look forward to seeing him continue to succeed on and off the basketball court. He was truly remarkable in his one and only season in a Ram uniform.

### Questions and Answers with Coach Waldrop

Q) How do you think this year's team compares to last year's and will you win 29 games again ?

TW) Last year's team was really special and had an unbelievable record; I think only 2 or 3 teams in the nation had as few losses as we did. That said, I think this year's team will set their own course and make it's own mark. Last year was a great year, but it was last year; We have new faces and new challenges ahead of us that are right around the corner. What I do like about this year's team on paper is that it is athletic and I think could be a very physical team if it all fits together. I am particularly excited about the size and athleticism we have at the forward-center positions. We've got a great mixture of old and new guys there and we are hoping that translates into a lot of success for us again this season.

Q) You guys have a national reputation for being tough defensively. How do you think this year's team will fit into that role ?

TW) When we began laying the foundation for the program years ago one of the cornerstones we were going to build on was physical 'old school' defense and rebounding. If you do those two things well even if you have a terrible shooting night you have a chance to win. I think we have proven that over the last few years. Our formula basketball-wise is pretty simple; we are going to guard you, we are going to rebound, we are going to attack and get to the free throw line and play a tough physical style of basketball. Its really an old school philosophy but it is something the coaching staff believes in and the players have bought into and we have had a lot of success with it.

Q) You have always played one of the toughest schedule's in the NAIA. Why is that important ?

TW) Our goal every year is to be in position to play for a national championship and the tough schedule is a huge preparation for that goal; The fact is we have and will lose some games because of the level of our opponents, but we are learning and improving every night out and the ultimate payoff is in Kansas City in March. I love the idea of testing our guys against some of the best in the country and putting them in tough environments. This year we have Oklahoma City, LSU-Shreveport twice, Oklahoma Christian, Evangel University; All of those are legitimate top 10 programs in the country each year; It's another tough schedule for us, but nothing we are not accustomed to.

‘TRADITION NEVER GRADUATES ‘

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS****REBOUNDERS CLUB KICKOFF BBQ**

LOU'S PAVILLION ON CAMPUS OF TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

6-8 PM

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15, 2009

WORLD FAMOUS EULESS MAIN STREET BBQ WILL BE HERE

817-531-4224 FOR MORE DETAILS OR EMAIL US AT

[TWALDROP@TXWE.EDU](mailto:TWALDROP@TXWE.EDU) OR [BSHINGLETON@TXWES.EDU](mailto:BSHINGLETON@TXWES.EDU)**2009 Home Schedule for first semester**

Sat	14-Nov	Sterling Kansas	7:30
Fri	20-Nov	Arlington Baptist	7:30
Tues	24-Nov	Oklahoma City	7:30
Fri	27-Nov	Dallas Christian	7:30
Sat	28-Nov	St. Thomas	4:00
Thurs	10-Dec	SW Adventist	7:30

We will play our annual game at UTA on 22 December at 7pm\* (subject to change) It will be at Texas Hall on the campus of UTA.

Rebounders Club luncheon dates throughout the year

November 19

January 14

February 18

March 11

All are on Thursdays from noon till 12:45 and held in Dora Roberts Cafeteria on the campus of Texas Wesleyan. Lunch is free for members !!!

MORE INFORMATION:

[www.ramsports.net](http://www.ramsports.net)[www.terrywaldrop.com](http://www.terrywaldrop.com)[www.twitter.com/terrywaldrop](http://www.twitter.com/terrywaldrop)

Andy Laitinen who broke his elbow after being fouled on a dunk during the first game of the year came back late in the season to provide a physical spark as well. The bench was bolstered by the tenacious defensive play of Irving Senior Willie Sweat and Arlington sophomore Evan Randal, the steady shooting of Mansfield sophomore Cody Waldrop and Euless freshman Tyler Sears and the physical play of Carrolton freshman Ryan Glanzer. There were many games during the 16 game win streak that came down to the wire, but each time the Rams were up to the challenge and turned away their opponents in the end to complete a conference record 16 game win streak. The Rams won their initial matchup in Kansas City coming from 13 down to defeat Lindsey Wilson University from Kentucky. In the Sweet 16 game the Rams had an eight point lead well into the second half when guard Terrell Henry went down with a severe ankle injury; The Rams were unable to hold onto the lead and fell to McKendree University from Illinois for the second consecutive year.

**More Q and A with Coach Waldrop**

Q) It looks like your staff has grown this year. Can you tell us a little about the new guys and how you and Coach Shingleton will utilize them

TW) Brennen Shingleton has been with me it seems since I started coaching. I recruited him in high school, and he later played for me at Southeastern Louisiana University. He is in his 8<sup>th</sup> season here and it's been an amazing run. He and I share very similar philosophies of the game. I think his passion is what really drives him and our guys are so fortunate (as am I) to have him share that with them and be part of our program and our lives. He got married this summer to a great young lady and I am like a proud parent in seeing how far he has come and how effective he is. He certainly is a cornerstone of our program here without question. We do have a couple new guys this year that are volunteer assistant coaches; Tim Bellmon has been a Head Coach at Paul Quinn in our league and last year was an assistant at Wiley College. I am excited about Tim because of his experience and our guys will be so fortunate to get such a quality individual in their lives. Tim knows the league and has a great feel for people and the game. Jimmie Williams comes from the Kansas City area. He played collegiately at Mid America Nazarene who made a very successful jump last year into NAIA Division I status and a final four appearance. Jimmie has a lot of energy and his experience as a high school coach will really benefit our guys. Jimmy is double dipping and working a lot the first semester with our Junior Varsity players and varsity and we are excited about the energy and enthusiasm he brings. I can't complete any answer about the staff without mentioning two of the unsung heroes in Head Trainer Kyle Morgan and SID Josh Lacey; Kyle has been with us for 9 years and Josh since 2005; Both of these individuals along with their staffs are exceptionally loyal, tireless workers and very important to our success here in basketball. Both are also becoming quite the ring collectors. Every year we have won conference titles (the last two) and our national championship year they received rings with the team; They are very supportive in their role's and we are very lucky to have them.



**First Team All-American  
Texas College Player of the Year  
Chris Berry  
Of Texas Wesleyan University**

‘Greatness is more than potential. It is the execution of potential. Beyond raw talent you need the appropriate training, you need the discipline, you need the inspiration. You need the drive and desire”

**Rams continue classroom success**

*Texas Wesleyan Basketball players making the grade academically !!*

Kennith Gober became the latest Texas Wesleyan University Basketball Ram to receive his diploma this may; Gober, a two year starter and all conference performer from Waxahachie received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Kinesiology and is currently working at North Richland Hills Prep as an assistant coach for former Texas Wesleyan great Ben Hunt, who is the Head Coach. The Rams have put several few coaches into the ranks the last few years including Brad Schilder, Nino Eitienne, James Whitfield, and now Kenny Gober. These young men are continuing the excellent tradition of TWU College of Education graduates.

Coach Terry Waldrop  
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