











# Tech sports suffering from lack of fan support



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Sports Editor

But I'm not talking about them, I'm talking about students who attend sporting events because "it's the thing to do", not because they want to support their school.

Take for example the Texas Tech men's basketball team. The Raiders

Texas Christian, Tech would move up a spot in the standing and wouldn't have to play in the elimination game, which will see the winner facing Arkansas.

But enough about the struggling team scenario.

school history and has a good shot at making a return trip to the NCAA Post-season Tournament, not to mention giving Texas and Arkansas a run for their money in the SWC tourney.

Coach Larry Hays and the Tech baseball team have fashioned a 14-2 record so far in 1991, their best start in school history. If that isn't enough to get people to the games, I don't know what is.

And what about the Tech women's volleyball team. What did the Raiders do last semester? They only posted the best winning percentage in SWC history and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Post-season Tournament for the first time in school history. Oh, that's all.

Most students at Tech don't go to the games because they appreciate the sport, or enjoy a day at the ballpark or even to just show some school spirit.

Most see games as a fashion show to show their latest fashion trends or a place to go and get a sun tan.

For those few of you Tech students who can be seen at every game and know that fan support can be very valuable, I applaud you and hope you continue to attend.

As a big sports enthusiast, I have come to appreciate all sports, all aspects of sports and enjoy attending a Tech game any chance I get.

But until Raider sports teams get the much-needed support they deserve, there will continue to be more empty seats at a game than full ones.

Could you imagine Southern Cal entering the L.A. Coliseum to play Michigan and only 15,000 fans showed up instead of the regular stadium capacity of 90,000?

I couldn't.  
A winning tradition can be easily started at Texas Tech, but not without fan support.

Imagine this: "Welcome to a capacity crowd here at Lubbock Municipal Coliseum where tonight the Red Raider women take on the Arkansas Razorbacks in front of 8,174 raging Raider fans."

Or how about this: "50,000 fans stormed onto the field as Texas Tech kicker Lin Elliot booted the game-winning field goal to lift the Red Raiders to a 13-10 victory over Texas A&M."

Scenarios like these and other similar ones are not uncommon at various college stadiums and arenas around the country, but here at Texas Tech, you'll rarely ever see them.

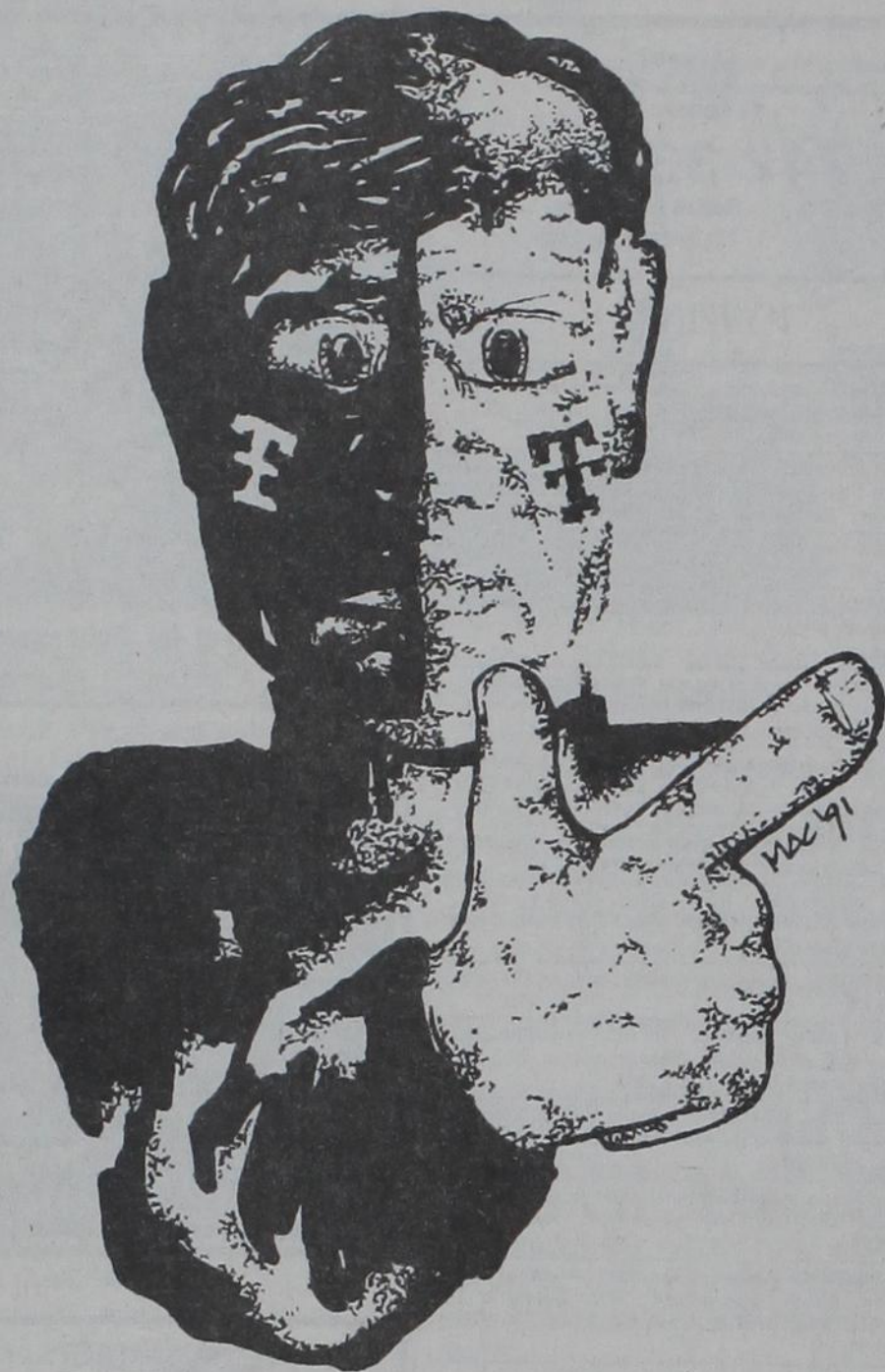
It's not that the Raider sports teams are not capable of carrying out some of these situations, it's the fact that the fan support at Texas Tech University is embarrassing.

Poor, embarrassing, horrible, putrid, call it what you will. Because the fact of the matter is, Tech students just aren't filling the stands. Fans will argue that the Raiders haven't had a good team at anything lately to warrant a trip to the ballpark or the arena, but that is exactly my point.

The students at Texas Tech are fair-weather fans!

When Tech has a winning team, sure, let's go out and support the Raiders. But when a Tech team is struggling, there are more people on press row than there are in the stands.

Granted there are always your faithful alumni and parents of athletes who wouldn't miss a game if their life depended on it.



are currently in eighth place in the Southwest Conference and are fighting for seventh place to stay out of the elimination game in the SWC Post-season Tournament.

With a win this Saturday against

What about the Texas Tech women's basketball team, or the men's baseball team or the women's volleyball team?

Coach Marsha Sharp has led her team to one of its best seasons in

The Texas Tech Athletics Department, in conjunction with The University Daily Sports Department presents:

## "Paint Your Face Day" at "THE BUBBLE"

Texas Tech students are invited to attend the Saturday, March 2 Red Raider men's basketball game with TCU starting at noon

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Support the Tech seniors in their last home game.

## SPORTS TRIVIA

1. What MLB player holds the record for most consecutive games with a hit?
2. The Art Ross Trophy is designated for what category in the NHL?
3. Now that Comiskey park has been torn down, what two MLB stadiums are the oldest?

ANSWERS TO SPORTS TRIVIA  
1. Joe Dimaggio with 56 straight games with a hit.  
2. For the player who scores the most points in a season.  
3. Tiger Stadium and Fenway Park, both built in 1912.

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