





## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Treador

FORMER LADY RAIDERS head coach Marsha Sharp participates in the Lubbock Centennial Kickoff celebration Sunday evening at the City Bank Coliseum.

## Ahmadinejad's Iraq visit cements Iran's influence in former enemy

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iran's fire-brand president wrapped up his landmark visit to Iraq with a bit of added swagger Monday — insisting that U.S. power is crippling the region and portraying himself as the enduring partner of Baghdad's Shiite-led government.

The parting words and posturing — like nearly every moment of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's two-day trip — was powerful political theater seeking to emphasize Iran's growing bonds with its former enemy. U.S. officials had a front row seat.

Ahmadinejad, the first Iranian leader to visit Iraq since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, had no direct dealings with American envoys or the military. But Washington and its Sunni Arab allies were high on his agenda — taking every opportunity to send messages about Shiite Iran's rising influence in the region and its special ties to Iraq's Shiite majority.

For Washington, however, this is not a new lesson.

The toppling of Saddam Hussein's

Sunni-heavy regime opened the door for Iran's inroads into the nation it battled during a horrific 1980-88 war that claimed an estimated 1 million lives. The United States — despite having no diplomatic ties with Tehran and accusing Iran of aiding Shiite militias — opened groundbreaking dialogue with Iranian officials last year that acknowledged the Islamic Republic as a critical player in Iraq.

The next step — from the vantage point of Washington and its Iraqi allies — is seeing whether Ahmadinejad's visit translates into a clearer Iranian role in helping stabilize Iraq at a time when violence is dropping and insurgents are under increasing military pressure.

"Iraq and Iran having been deadly enemies, and (Ahmadinejad's visit) shows they have turned a page," said Rand Corp. analyst and former U.S. diplomat James Dobbins.

Iraq's Shiite power bases — both in top posts and on the streets — will be the most closely watched barometers for any possible changes following the visit.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite, and President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, may now have a more direct pipeline to Tehran for dialogue on Shiite trouble spots. Among the top worries: keeping a lid on Shiite factions clashing for control in the oil-rich south and breakaway Shiite groups that Washington accuses of receiving aid from Iran.

Iran already has appeared to cut its backing for radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who directs the vast Mahdi Army militia. Instead, Tehran has thrown its weight behind al-Sadr's rival, Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, the country's most powerful Shiite political insider and supporter of al-Maliki's government.

## Car and bike clinic offers peace of mind to students

By HANNAH BOEN  
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech will host a Car and Bike Clinic from 2 to 5 p.m. Wednesday in the C-17 parking lot near the School of Law to offer students free preventative maintenance before Spring Break traveling.

With many students preparing to drive the highways during Spring Break, University Parking Services is offering a free car clinic, bike clinic and safety fair, according to a university news release.

Heather Medley, spokeswoman with University Parking Services, said she hopes the event will keep students from having car trouble during the break.

In addition to having preventative maintenance, Medley said she wants Tech students to be aware of other resources they have when it comes to car trouble on the road.

The Tech Parents Association has compiled a list of parents in several counties who are available to help stranded students. Medley encourages students to check out the list before they hit the road.

The Road-Raider list is available at [www.depts.ttu.edu/parent-relations](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/parent-relations).

Along with the car and bike maintenance, free child car seats will be given away in exchange for recalled car seats, according to the news release.

Scott's Complete Car Care experts will be present to check tires, hoses, belts and fluids free of charge to students.

"Everything visible under the hood," said Ruden Palacios, an employee at Scott's. "As far as kids hitting the road, we want to be sure they're safe."

Palacios said because some students neglect the upkeep of their vehicles, the clinic will give them an opportunity to have things checked before they travel.

He said he hopes checking vital elements such as air pressure and fluids will prevent accidents during Spring Break.

As the weather gets warmer, more students are pulling out their bikes as well as cars, and the event also will feature a bike clinic, according to the release. Broadway Bike employees will perform free

check-ups on students' bikes.

"Not keeping up with maintenance can, in some cases, cause accidents," said Clinton Williams, a Broadway Bikes employee. "We want to inform students on what they need to do in order to keep their bikes running properly."

Along with offering students the opportunity to get their bikes checked for adjustments, the clinic will provide students with information on what they need to do to keep their bikes running properly, according to the release.

The event also will allow students to register their bicycles with the Tech Police Department and register their vehicles with the Health and Auto Theft Task Force, according to the release. The task force registration is meant to keep students' vehicles safe from theft.

The clinic also will offer free hot dogs and sodas, along with prize drawings including a drawing for a free parking permit.

Community members who are not Tech students can bring vehicles or bicycles to the clinic as well.

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## Colombia

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

njo, without giving more details.

Naranjo said the \$300 million was mentioned in a Feb. 14 message in Reyes' laptop. Colombia was investigating to determine if the money was intended as payment for Chavez brokering the rebels' recent release of hostages, he said.

"At this moment, the only thing that can be said is that there is a payment," Naranjo said. He provided no proof of the payment and journalists were not given copies of the documents. Naranjo said other documents suggest Ecuador's president is deepening relations with the Revolution-

ary Armed Forces of Colombia as well — a claim Ecuador denied — and that Manuel "Sureshot" Marulanda, the top FARC leader, is closely allied with the Venezuelan government.

"This implies more than cozying up, but an armed alliance between the FARC and the Venezuelan government," he said.

Another document in Reyes' laptop suggests that rebels have had financial ties when Chavez was in jail in 1992 and plotting the comeback that eventually led to his election as president in 1998.

"A note recovered from Raul Reyes speaks of how grateful Chavez was for the 100 million pesos (about \$150,000 at the time) ... delivered to Chavez when he was in prison," Naranjo said.

Correa said Colombia deliberately carried out the strike beyond its borders, flying deep into Ecuador to bomb the rebel camp. He said the rebels were "bombed and massacred as they slept, using precision technology."

Colombian officials have long complained rebels are allowed to take refuge across its borders in both Ecuador and Venezuela.

Colombian Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos said Monday that his government isn't moving any troops and "we have the situation under control."

A U.S. State Department spokesman, Tom Casey, said the United States supports Colombia's right to defend itself against the FARC and called for dialogue between Colombia and Ecuador.

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Ring orders placed by March 6<sup>th</sup> will be delivered in time for the Official Ring Ceremonies on April 22, 23 & 24 at the Merket Alumni Center.

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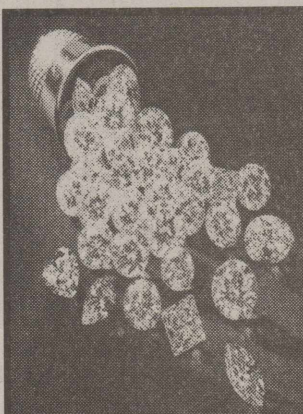
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# SPORTS

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TUESDAY, MAR. 4, 2008

## Tech baseball makes home debut today against Central Arkansas

By **BEN MAKI**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Texas Tech baseball team will make its home debut at 6 p.m. today at Dan Law Field after starting the season on an eight-game road trip.

The Red Raiders (3-5) played in three different cities in nine days, and they have lost three of their last four games, with two of those losses by one run.

"It's really unreal what we've put these guys through," Tech coach Larry Hays said. "I don't want to do all that again — long bus rides, get up at 6:45 in the morning, play two games in a row, get in late at night, go to class, get back on the bus; go to Albuquerque and have two different trips."

Now they will turn their attention to Central Arkansas (5-3), who has mixed results this season,

for a pair of mid-week games. In two of the Bears' defeats, they lost by scores of 11-5 and 15-4, both coming against Missouri State. In the other two games against Missouri State, UCA won 15-4 and 7-2.

"It's good to play at home anytime, but after being on the bus like we have," Hays said, "running all over the country and doing all the things that we've had to do, it's nice to get home, get rested up, do the thing we need to do and get ready to get to play in front of our fans."

The Bears will send out Matt Whitacker (1-0, 2.08 ERA) who has struck out 12 batters in 13 innings pitched, and batters are hitting .182 against him.

Hays said the road trip has been tough, and it will be good to play at home. Tech will counter with Cory Large, who is 1-0 with a 4.50 ERA.

This season, Tech has committed several errors, including four against Rice Sunday in Houston. Hays said some of the struggles defensively can be attributed to players playing through injuries.

"We've got to get healthy," he said. "We've got two, three position guys that are playing hurt. That's causing us to do some things that we don't need to do. Another thing is we need to be consistent. We're concerned with what we've done (defensively), but we're optimistic from the standpoint of what this team could do, and we think we could do a lot better, but we've got to get it done. We're showing signs to be pretty good, but we need to get there, and we're not there."

Some key hitters for the Bears are Graham Martin, Jonathan Yerby and Scott Cline, all of whom are hitting better than .350.

Two of Tech's key hitters are

struggling at the plate. Doug Thennis is hitting .212 and Chris Richburg, who was moved from hitting in the five-hole to the eight slot against Tennessee Saturday and did not start against Rice, is hitting .188.

"To win three games here without Thennis and Richburg being Thennis and Richburg is a pretty good sign," Hays said. "We really didn't get anything out of those guys like what we've gotta have. They're two of our better hitters, and I expect them to have good years and bounce back."

Dan Law Field will unveil a new section today, available only to students. The Red Raiders had a new bullpen built behind the third-base stands, and the old bullpen, located in left field, will be available to students on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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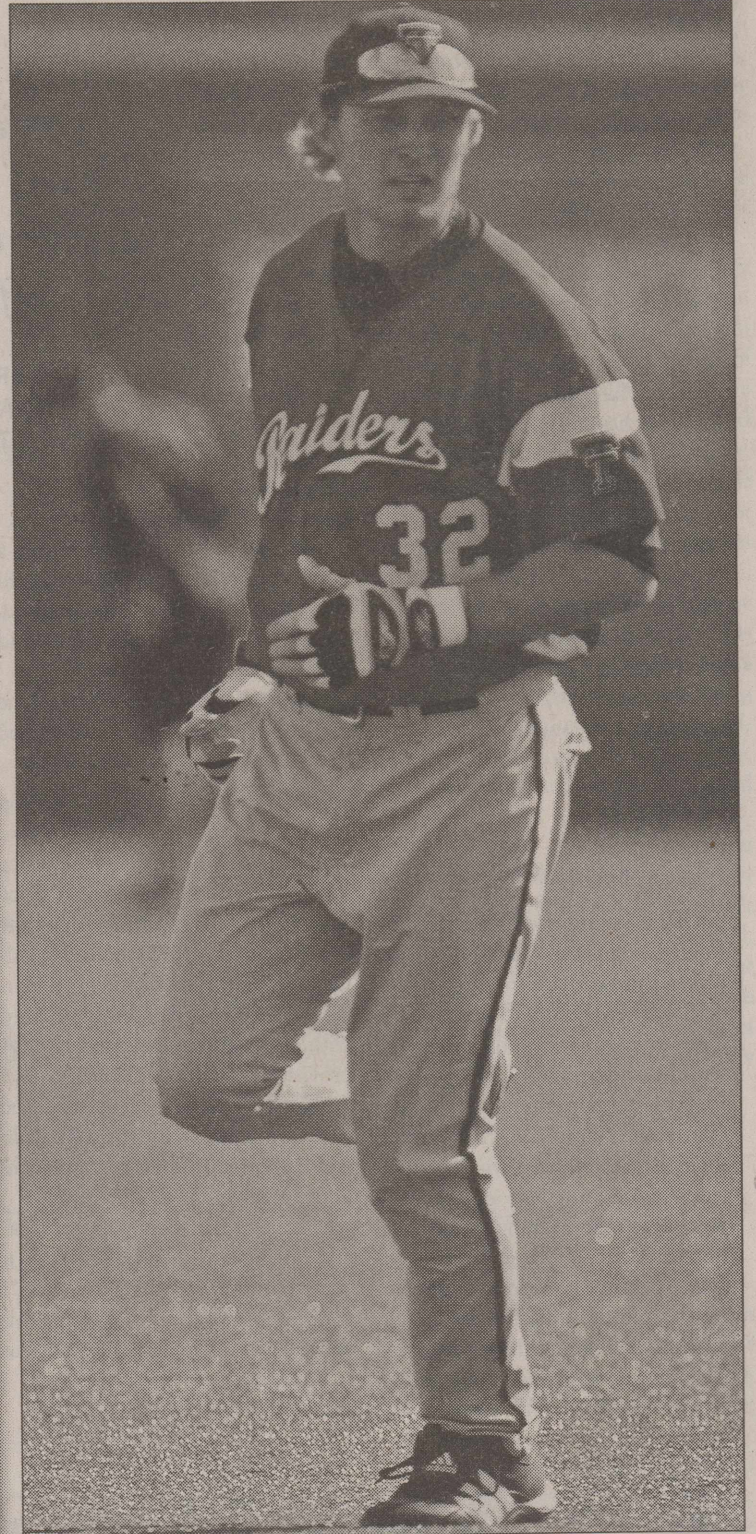


PHOTO BY KEN MUIR/The Daily Toreador  
TEXAS TECH'S CHRIS Richburg has struggled at the plate this season.

## Tech track teams set 3 school records at Big 12 Indoor Championships

By **BRAD DUFF**  
STAFF WRITER

If coach Wes Kittley has taught his team anything this year, it has been one thing: Learn to scrap.

"On paper, I thought our women would possibly do a bit better," Kittley said. "But I knew our men had an opportunity to fight, too."

The Texas Tech men finished third while the women finished fifth in the Big 12 Conference Indoor Championships Friday and Saturday in Lincoln, Neb.

Although the men's 93 points was a program best, it was not enough to beat the first and second place teams of Texas and Nebraska who scored 106 and 104 points, respectively.

"Real pleased that we scored 93 points, real pleased that we were in the fight with Texas and Nebraska for the championship," Kittley said. "We got awfully close."

With 70.5 points, the women placed fifth behind Texas A&M who scored 119.25 points and a took first place.

Tech finished the weekend with three school records, 38 All-Conference honors and a program-tying six Big 12 titles.

Sally Kipyego had first place finishes in both the mile and 3,000M for the second year in a row. She tied with Kansas' Crystal Manning for the women's high point award as both collected 21.50 points.

Also, defending her title from last season was pentathlete Julianne Kennedy, who collected 4,085 points on

the first day of competition, setting a personal best and a school record. She also set three personal bests with 8.65 seconds in the 60M hurdles, 5-foot 10-inches in the high jump and 42'0.75" in the shot put.

After red-shirting last season because of injury, Tech hurdler Shawn Harris was relieved to be back in Lincoln.

"It's been a long time since I've been up here and got a Big 12 Championship," Harris said.

He is the second Tech hurdler to win the Big 12 title in the 60M hurdles in as many years, running an NCAA provisional time of 7.77 seconds. Marlon Odom won the event in 2007. Teammate Jansen Hyde clocked 7.93 seconds in the event, placing fifth. Omo Osaghae finished in seventh place with a time of 8.00

seconds.

Julius Walker took first place for the Red Raiders in the 60M dash, clocking an NCAA provisional time of 6.63 seconds. Walker was a National Junior College Champion in the 55M last season for Coffeyville Community College in Coffeyville, Kan.

Harris said he hopes the success at the Big 12 Championship will carry over to the outdoor season.

"I told the fellas we had a good chance of winning just as long as we do what we did, do our part," Harris said. "We scored the most points, and that's the positive thing. Hopefully, we can carry that to the outdoor season."

Both men's and women's shot

TRACK continued on page 7



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