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Tech vs. Texas | Return to Lubbock

No. 6 Longhorns arrive to take on Red Raiders

Tech, Texas to play in front of national audience

By JOSE RODRIGUEZ
SPORTS EDITOR

Anybody who follows Texas Tech football, or college football for that matter, probably knows about Michael Crabtree's last-second catch to put the Longhorns away in 2008.

Some will recall the hit former Texas linebacker Sergio Kindle put on Tech quarterback Taylor Potts in front of about 102,000 fans in Austin last year.

So, Texas defensive end Sam Acho expects his team's match Saturday against the Red Raiders (2-0) at 7 p.m. at Jones AT&T Stadium to be something of a memory as well.

"I expect a hostile atmosphere. Tech has some great fans; they're crazy, they're loud," Acho said during Texas' weekly media conference. "The team itself will be ready to play. I expect a hostile environment. It's something we always look forward to."

"It's a big game - national television, prime time. I will be excited."

By now, many probably know of the difference between the 2010 edition of the Longhorns (2-0) and the one Tech fans have seen the past few years — the quarterback.

The college football world got a glimpse of current Texas quarterback Garret Gilbert when Colt McCoy was knocked out of the 2010 BCS National Championship Game.



PHOTO BY KARL ANDERSON/The Daily Toreador
TAYLOR POTTS AND Baron Batch lead the Red Raiders into their matchup against No. 6 Texas on Saturday at Jones AT&T Stadium.

TECH continued on Page 7

Not all Raiderville campers guaranteed entrance

Game wristbands limited to 2,000 students

By EDMUND ROSTRAN
NEWS EDITOR

Raiderville residents wanting a guaranteed seat in Saturday's Tech vs. Texas game must receive a wristband from Raiderville hosts Drew Gardner, Kurtis Vanderpool or Student Affairs.

Gardner, co-mayor of Raiderville, said those who have been camping out at Raiderville all week are ready for game day, but not everyone is guaranteed entrance into the stadium.

"Once the game comes, everyone that camped out will receive a wrist band," Gardner said. "We maxed out at 2,000 — that number's already been reached, so pretty much everyone that is going to get a wrist band is here, ready to go."



PHOTO BY SAM GRENAIER/The Daily Toreador
KALYN WILLIAMSON, A junior mechanical engineering major from Eastland, works on homework on top of a longboard Monday at Raiderville.

CAMPERS continued on Page 6

SGA asks Tech to give UT the silent treatment

Graham: Display would show 'unity' like no other

By DEREK MOY
STAFF WRITER

The University of Texas football team enters Jones AT&T Stadium with their school song playing to a massive football crowd, but not a single Texas Tech fan is making a noise. Tech's team enters, and the crowd makes its presence known for the rest of the game by cheering.

That's the plan Drew Graham, president of the Student Government Association, and other SGA senators have tried to hatch this week for the rivalry game.

"I think it would show unity like no schools could compete with," Graham said. "I don't know how many schools could actually get 50,000 people to

go from being extremely loud to completely quiet and then extremely loud again."

During last weekend's SGA retreat, the student government came up with an idea that would demonstrate good sportsmanship and intimidate Texas, he said. If more than 55,000 Tech fans were quiet when Texas enters the stadium, it would make an impact.



GRAHAM

SILENT continued on Page 2

Religious protestors draw large crowd near SUB

Texas Tech Police called to free speech area to control crowd



PHOTOS BY RIANNON ROWLEY/The Daily Toreador
JEREMY, WHO DID NOT want to release more information, grabs the attention of students as he preaches to "[warn] sinner[s] of that place called hell" in the free speech area on Thursday.

By EDMUND ROSTRAN
NEWS EDITOR

Religious protestors stood in the free speech area outside the Student Union Building in an attempt to give their interpretation of the Bible to Tech students Thursday.

Two male protestors held signs, yelled Bible verses and got into heated arguments with the many students who gathered.

Jeremy Ayer, a senior philosophy major from Athens, said he came off the bus

and heard the men who call themselves Protestants ragging on everybody.

"They called a girl out; she had some little shorts on," Ayer said. "They told her she was a whore for having too short shorts. They also said that if you are in a fraternity or sorority you're going to hell, if you're drinking you're going to hell, Catholics were automatically going to be sent to hell — pretty much anything that any student was doing was going to hell."

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WEATHER

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Silence during Texas game is a bad idea
OPINIONS, Pg. 4

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THE DAILY TOREADOR

Community Calendar

TODAY

Kaleidoscope of Choirs

Time: 8 p.m.
Where: Hemmle Recital Hall, Texas Tech School of Music
So, what is it?
 Support the Texas Tech choral department and hear songs from various ensembles.

Zac Brown Band and Robert Randolph and The Family Band

Time: 7 p.m.
Where: City Bank Coliseum
So, what is it?
 Tickets on sale at various outlets such as the Civic Center and Market Street for \$51 and \$48. Come to this electric concert before the Red Raiders take on the Texas Longhorns.

Ballet Lubbock performs "Ragtime"

Time: 7 p.m.
Where: The Louise H. Underwood Center for the Arts, 511 Ave. K
So, what is it?
 Friday night marks the kick-off performance of the performance season with "Ragtime," an original ballet choreographed and set to the music of Scott Joplin.

Where: Jones AT&T Stadium

Kyle Park with Ryan Beaver

Time: 10 p.m.
Where: Wild West, 2216 N. I-27
So, what is it?
 If you still have energy after the Texas game, come two-step the night away to the music of Kyle Park.

SUNDAY

Guest Percussionist Lance Drege Performs

Time: 3 p.m.
Where: Hemmle Recital Hall, Tech School of Music
So, what is it?
 Lance Drege is a faculty member at Oklahoma University and principal timpanist in the Oklahoma City Philharmonic Orchestra. Performing with Drege is Karen Beres on piano.

Celtic Ensemble Fall Concert

Time: 7 p.m.
Where: The Legacy, 14th Street and Avenue O
So, what is it?
 Celebrate "Talk-Like-a-Pirate Day" by listening to songs related to living the pirate life at "Pirates, Freebooters, and Jolly Jack Tars: The Celts at Sea."

To make a calendar submission e-mail dailytoreador@ttu.edu.

Events will be published either the day or the day before they take place. Submissions must be sent in by 4 p.m. on the preceding publication date.

SATURDAY

Texas Tech Volleyball vs. Kansas State

Time: 6:30 p.m.
Where: United Spirit Arena

Texas Tech Football vs. UT

Time: 7 p.m.

Silent

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Graham said he wants to make sure Tech fans still act like their normal selves once Texas enters, and that the silent treatment is only for Texas' school song and entrance into the stadium.

"The rest of the time, we want to be as loud as we can possibly can," he said. "We want the spirit, we want the emotion, we want that passion there that our students have and fans and alumni have."

The idea for silent treatment was passed around student organizations, such as the Saddle Tramps, first, and once they thought it was a good idea, the SGA notified the media, Graham said.

"A news station reported incorrectly what the intent was," he said. "The intent is not to have any Tech fans be silent every time the UT football team has the ball."

Having the same excitement and enthusiasm Tech has every time another team plays in Lubbock is important to have after the initial Texas entrance, Graham said.

After the SMU home game, several alumni and donors were alarmed at how the students booed and chanted "Raider Power" during SMU's school song, Jenny Mayants, internal vice president for the SGA, said.

"(We are) just trying to show sportsmanship but at the same time make an impact and intimidate the other team," she said.

Once Tech is on the field, Ma-

yants said, she wants the crowd to give Texas the normal hospitality it sees while playing at the Jones.

"Show school spirit; be as loud as possible and just go nuts throughout the whole rest of the game," she said. "Don't stop being loud; the only time we think it would be really cool and intimidating is right at that beginning moment."

If the silent treatment works, there would still be the Texas fans and band making noise, Brian Roberts, senator at large, said.

"It's more about showing them the lack of what they have in attendance and how much we are behind our team," he said. "To show that we are one student body that's 100 percent for the best of our team. Basically, we want them to feel completely inferior at our stadium."

John George, a freshman psychology major from Houston, said he would participate in being silent if others around him did the same.

"I think that would just be pretty cool," he said. "You have so many people and no one makes a sound? I mean, if it doesn't intimidate them, it'll at least have an effect on them."

Arielle Hall, a junior public relations major from Abilene, said she found out about the silent treatment idea through her sorority.

"I'm not really sure how well it's going," Hall said. "I don't know. It's just kind of hard to keep a whole stadium quiet, especially against such a big rival."

Jake Bush, a sophomore electrical engineering major from Allen, said he's going to try the silent treatment out.

"If there's a few people that aren't

WRAPPING TIGHT

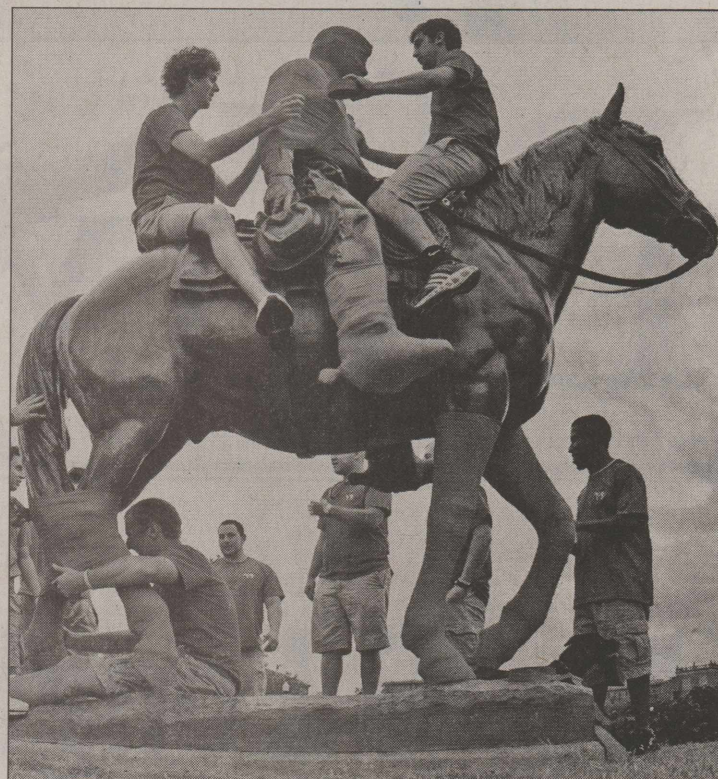


PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador
 THE SADDLE TRAMPS wrap the Will Rogers statue for school spirit Thursday prior to the game against the University of Texas this weekend.

going to do it around me, I'll tell them to be quiet and go with it," he said. "If there's, like, 100 people, I'll be like, 'That's never going to work, ever.'"

Bush said the silent treatment is another way for Tech to show support for the football team, and anything fans can do to help their team, he would do.

"Everyone just needs to participate in the spirit of the school and the game," he said. "The whole point is to just beat Texas."

If Tech fans could pull it off, it would demonstrate good sportsmanship as well as unity, Bush said.

"It'll show that we actually can be as one body, pretty much," he said. "It'll also show that we can actually have good sportsmanship. It's not that we don't have it. We choose not to have that every game. It's the whole spirit of football — it's very competitive every time for everyone."

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SGA hosts first senate meeting of year

BY BRIAN HOWARD
 STAFF WRITER

The Texas Tech Student Government Association held their first official senate meeting for the fall semester in the senate room of the Student Union Building Thursday.

Jenny Mayants, the president of the student senate,

said she was really impressed with the senate, including the leadership qualities displayed and the ideas they had come up with.

"I just wanted to tell you all how impressed I was with the senate," she said. "I'm really, really, really excited for this year."

After opening introductions, new members were sworn in,

each committee gave reports, and three senate bills were introduced, which were each seconded to be discussed further and then voted on later in the meeting.

Senator Stuart Williams introduced the first bill discussed, titled Senate Bill 46.02.

"Since we no longer require people to vote anymore, I propose an amendment to the con-

stitution to remove the rule," he said.

There was a lot of discussion about removing the rule because it was the first time the bill was introduced, said Candra Fulford, a senator with SGA.

"The reason we like to table bills when they are first introduced is to make sure we fully think them through," she said.

The SGA has been taking rules that were previously shown to be under-utilized into review, Fulford said.

Bill 46.02 eventually passed with a majority vote.

Senator Williams also introduced Senate Bill 46.03, the second bill discussed at the meeting.

"This bill proposes that once you have four unexcused absences, you will automatically be kicked out of SGA," Williams said.

Senator Hannah Walker said she opposed the bill because many times members may miss meetings for things like fraternity or sorority events.

Senator Rahul Kanungoe said he agreed with the bill because the RNA deals with kicking members out for very specific reasons, and that members should be wary of these reasons.

Senate Bill 46.03 was tabled for the next meeting.

Brian Roberts, senator at large, introduced Bill 46.04, the final bill discussed in the meeting.

The bill proposes to change the name of silent treatment, a proposed plan for students to be silent when the Texas football team initially enters the Jones AT&T Stadium for their game against Tech this weekend, Roberts said.

"Gerald Myers personally sent an e-mail to President Drew that said he didn't like the silent treatment name," he said, "but that he liked the idea."

The idea is that by being silent upon entry of the opposing team, the Texas football team will realize their lack of fan-base in the stadium, and when Tech enters, the crowd will go crazy, showing the great amount of support our team has, Roberts said.

"This will create better sportsmanship," he said, "which is something that will directly affect our Tier One status."

After little argument or discussion concerning the name change, Bill 46.04 was tabled, and the meeting was adjourned.

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Constitution Day Panel – TODAY, in the Senate Room of the SUB – 2:00-3:30pm

In Honor of Constitution Day, September 17th, the Department of Political Science is sponsoring today at 2pm a panel of experts who will talk about what they see as the significant constitutional issues likely to arise in the next couple of years. The panel discussion will be located in the Senate Room of the Student Union Building (around the corner from the Allen Theater). The title of the panel is "The Clash of Elected Officials and Federal Courts over Policy Making in a Partisan Era." This event is open to the public. Featured on the panel are Law Professor Arnold Loewy and Political Science Professors David Lewis, Cindy Rugeley, Craig Goodman, and Mark McKenzie.

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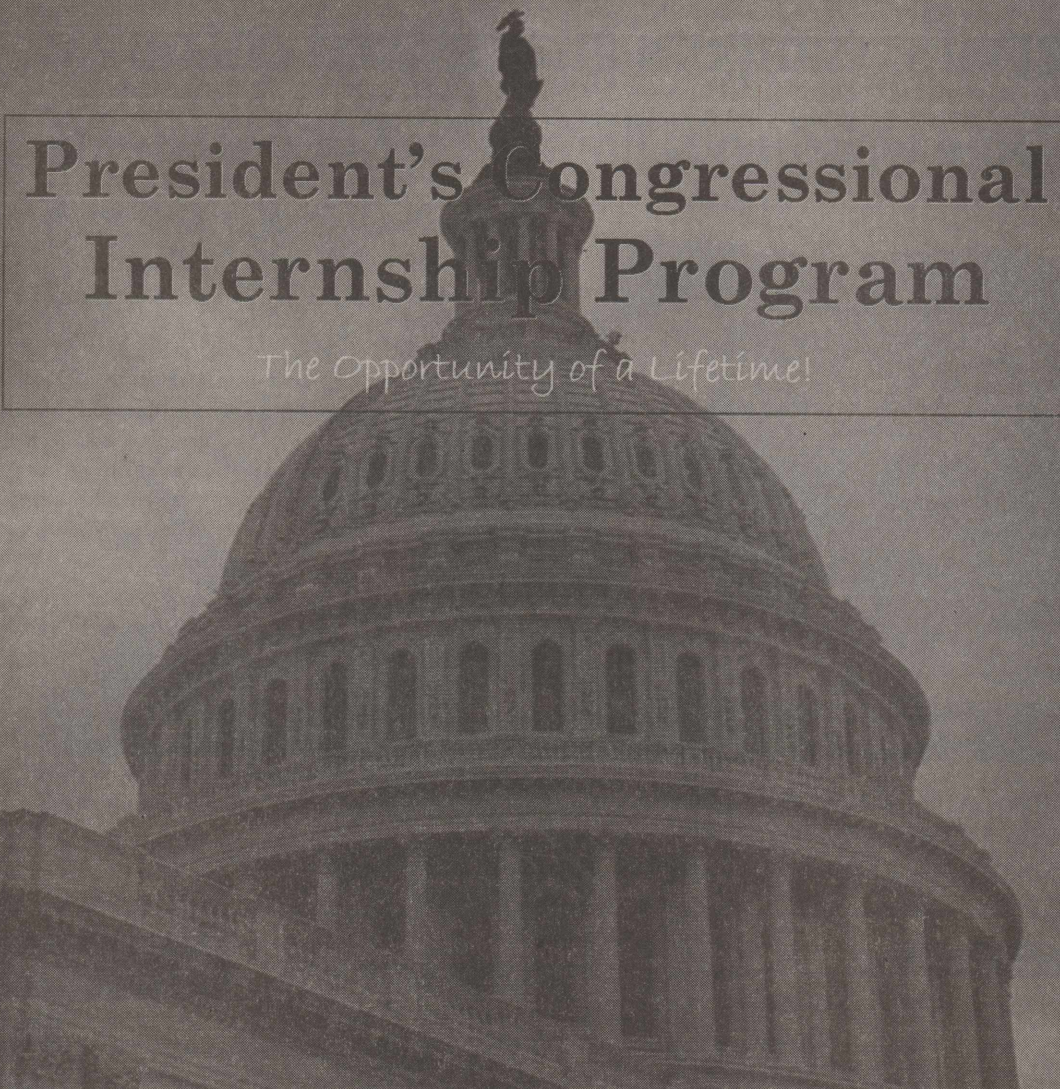
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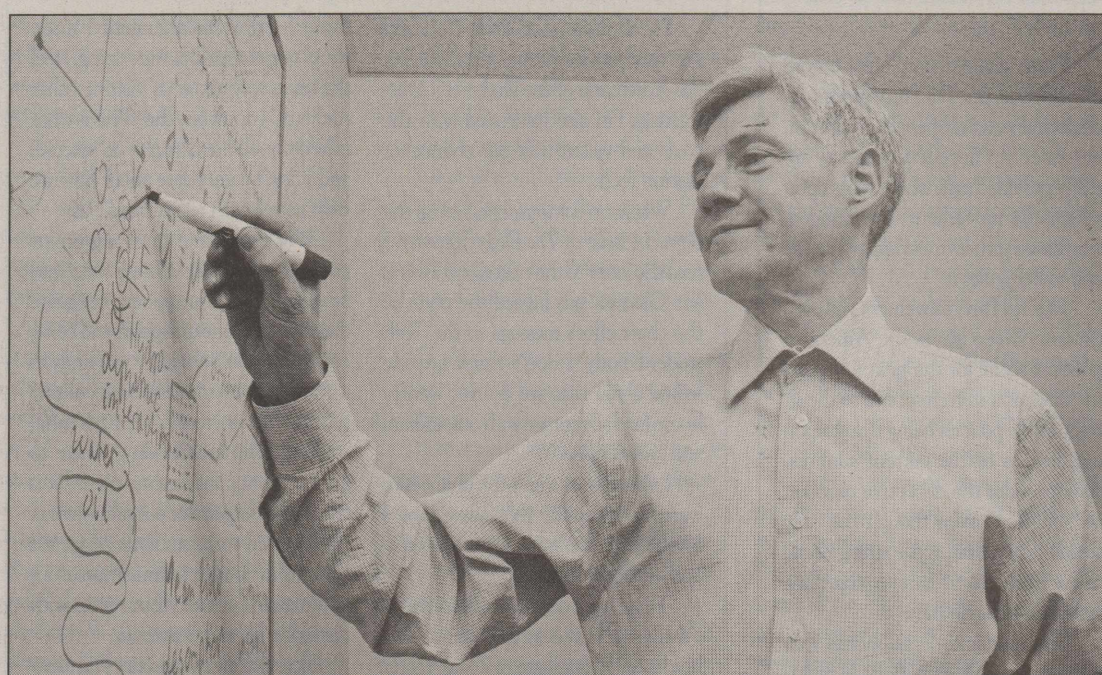


PHOTO BY BRAD TOLLEFSON/The Daily Toreador

JERZY BLAWDZIEWICZ, A professor with the Mechanical Engineering Department, came to Texas Tech from Yale stating that it is a better engineering school.

From Poland to Connecticut to Texas, professor brings experience to Tech College of Engineering

By HALLIE DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Just reading the name Jerzy Blawdziewicz might be a little intimidating, and to find out he is one of Texas Tech's hopes for Tier One status might incite more awe.

The new mechanical engineering professor was recruited from Yale to

teach and continue his research at Tech, but with his friendly Polish accent and constant smile, it's hard not to be at ease with Blawdziewicz.

After arriving in the United States in 1995 from Poland, he developed an interest in collaborating at Yale, and chose to stay in America rather than returning home, which was his original goal.

"The United States is a broad spectrum of opportunities of various kinds," Blawdziewicz said. "There are lots of opportunities to learn new things and do new things."

Many of these opportunities can be pursued at Tech, and Blawdziewicz said he was happy to be a part of the push for Tier One.

"I saw that I can contribute to the

goal of the university to become a first-rated research university," he said. "It's exciting to be here."

One of the reasons Blawdziewicz chose Tech is because he knows many members of the faculty in various departments. In fact, one of his doctoral students at Yale, Sukalyan Bhattacharya, has been on Tech faculty since he graduated, and the two were happy to be working together again.

Tech is already a whole new experience for Blawdziewicz. He said coming from a liberal arts school to Tech was unique in terms of scope and students.

"How you teach is a little different, because (Yale engineering students) are not hardcore engineers like what come here," Blawdziewicz said. "Their interests are not necessarily focused on engineering, and here, at least as far as I recognize now, the people come to become engineers; it's their goal."

Though he said class sizes here are at least triple the size of his classes at Yale, he said he enjoys the students' focus. Very few at Yale went on to engineering jobs, whereas that is most Tech engineering students' goals.

Taylor Karis Claudio, the mechanical engineering senior business assistant, said she thought Blawdziewicz would really enjoy the hands on approach of the college.

"We're a smaller school in terms of funding, but we're doing a lot of new things," she said. "Obviously if you've been at Yale, Texas Tech is a lot different."

Lubbock itself is also something Blawdziewicz and his wife will have to

get used to, though Blawdziewicz said he can see having a great life here.

"Lubbock is a different landscape; architecturally it is quite nice," Blawdziewicz said. "I would say it is nicer than what outsiders think about this place."

He said he had been in Texas numerous times traveling with his wife, including to Panna Maria, the oldest Polish settlement in the U.S., located near Karnes City.

Though Blawdziewicz said he would miss the city life, he was quickly finding more and more cultural event opportunities he was ready to take advantage of.

"Life is much more quiet than on the East Coast," Blawdziewicz said. "On the East Coast, everybody is rushing, and a little bit more rude than here."

Bhattacharya said Blawdziewicz would do well here, especially working with faculty he already

knew in the different disciplines of engineering.

"He will like the city if he likes the department," Bhattacharya said.

Though Blawdziewicz has only been here for about three weeks, he said he is excited to begin researching again.

He said he plans to continue the research he was doing at Yale, and is also planning to look for new projects in all different areas of engineering and even biology.

"It's kind of all over the place, but it has a common thread of dynamics of materials that have micro structure," Blawdziewicz said.

His research will help toward the Tier One goal, as well as advance many areas of science. It's an intimidating job, but Blawdziewicz's enthusiasm makes him a perfect fit.

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Protest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"A big thing that bothered us is that they have their child out here with a sign on his back," Ayer said. "I confronted him personally and was like, 'Why do you have your child out here, why is he not in school?' He said back to me that he was on a field trip."

Ayer said he believes the group was there trying to get their point across and trying to do what they believe is right, but in a way Ayer didn't agree with.

"I don't know, they're just out here trying to get their message across, but it's definitely not the right message, especially on this campus and especially with people our age who are students," he said.

The protestors held signs that said, "Wicked shall be turned into hell" and one that stated, "Hell awaits you!" To counter, some students made signs that said, "God loves you as you are!"

Dorothy Boyett, a member of Temple Baptist Church in Lubbock, said the protestors would be traveling to different events, campuses and where crowds gather to preach their word.

"They are doing it because they're concerned about people, where people spend eternity," Boyett said. "And so they are here trying to get people to think about their state before God. You know, many of us think that we are good people because we are by the world's standards, but God's standards are the 10 Commandments and God requires different things to what we require."

"I think the crowd usually becomes angry when the gospel is preached," she said.

"I do agree with what they are doing," Boyett said. "I think it starts discussions and gets people to think, and that's all we are asking, people to think, to examine themselves."

Saige White, a junior psychology major from Alpharetta, Ga., said he got into a heated argument with one of the protestors, which ended with White being spoken to by a Tech Police officer.

"I basically got in an argument with that guy for like five minutes telling him that I got baptized," White said. "My grandfather's a deacon in a church in Kansas City and he baptized me when I was a baby, so I know I got saved, and he tried to question my grandfather baptizing me; I had to say something about that. I basically had to use misconduct, but I got my point across, and everybody that was behind me knew I was right."

Catherine Esquivel, a junior public relations major from Coppell, said she noticed the crowd that gathered was beginning to become upset with the protestors.

"Everyone's angry, nobody wants this, there's a cop car — I don't know why the cops aren't doing anything about it, I guess freedom of speech, but I think they're taking it too far," Esquivel said.

She said when she walked out of the

SUB and saw the men holding signs and yelling, she didn't know what to think.

"They're yelling at us like we are all bad people," Esquivel said. "I feel like they want to sue us like were bad people."

Kevin Mulholland, a junior public relations major from The Woodlands, took a different approach to speaking with the protestors. Mulholland said he decided to speak with the mothers instead of the yelling men.

"It doesn't seem like it's very effective," Mulholland said. "It just gets people angry, so I'm talking to the wives and the kids and stuff, just being like, you know, 'What do you think about this?' And they don't really want to talk."

"I respect that they're so hardcore about it but at the same time it's like, I don't think it's very effective, so I don't think you will see a whole lot of people getting recruited to do this kind of stuff," Mulholland said.

"They're saying a lot of stuff like certain people are going to go to hell — Catholics, and most of it they say is backed up by Bible verses, so, you know, everybody interprets it differently, you know, it's just like how stuff goes," he said.

Luke Williams, a senior public relations major from Gainesville, was by the SUB promoting a Bible study near the protestors. Williams said he believes the protestors were only telling people half of the story.

"I think that is what they are doing, that they are taking part of the truth of the Bible, and they're using it in the wrong context, and they're putting it out here to people and to students in a way that I think is untrue, and it really kind of harms and gives a bad (reputation) to Christians today," he said. "I think it's a problem."

Williams said he believes the protestors had a radical way of thinking and they acted immediately instead of thinking it through.

"I think that they want to give a message out, but I think the main reason they come is just to see how many people they can provoke and how many people they can get stirred up and what kind of reaction they can get," he said.

"I think it is terribly sad that he has his 5-year-old son over there," Williams said.

"I think that that's, regardless of what you believe and what your opinion is, I don't think it is right to come and to put a young child in the midst of anything that you, as a parent, are doing to provoke or on a college campus," he said. "I think that's pretty sad."

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		8	2	
4	6		9	1
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Puzzles by PageFiller

In Sudoku, all the numbers 1 to 9 must be in every row, column and 3 x 3 box. Use logic to define the answers.

6	8	3	2	9	1	5	7	4
7	4	1	3	6	5	8	2	9
5	2	9	8	7	4	6	1	3
9	3	4	5	1	7	2	6	8
2	6	5	9	3	8	1	4	7
8	1	7	4	2	6	3	9	5
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4	9	6	1	5	3	7	8	2
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Tea Party effort worthwhile

At this point, it's fairly easy to see why the Tea Party movement is doing so well across the country.

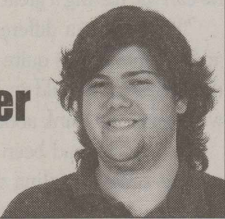
The Democrats' campaign promises turned out to be more political fog from the left's propaganda machine, and lo and behold, people are unhappy when they began rapidly expanding government quicker than Oprah's waist during the holidays.

Some of the rapid retreat of the liberal support that was seen in 2008 is likely due to voters that got caught up in the vapidity of the Obama campaign, which was offering worthless buzzwords like hope and change without much in the way of actual solutions to the problem of the country.

After all, a slogan like "We're going to take as much money from you as we possibly can to further our rapidly expanding socialist agenda under the guise of helping others, so when everyone is poor, you'll all need the government" wouldn't fit well on a three-color Shepherd Fairey poster.

Quite a few of these voters that allowed themselves to be herded into the hypnotic Obama fold may now be realizing that all the things that they were deluded into thinking the "Obamessiah" would provide aren't quite what they were promised. Now that the hype has died

Cole Shooter



down, support from these once boisterous balloters has dried up.

On the Republican front, voters are ousting many politicians from the moderate wing of the party, bringing in a newly motivated conservative movement from the ashes of the formerly ridiculed Republican Party of the past decade. Many of the Tea Partiers are simply fed up with the irresponsible expansion of government, the lies masquerading as campaign promises, and general disrespect to our liberties.

As far as I've seen, many lies have been propagated about the people that compose the Tea Party movement. Some would like to believe that the group is entirely made of a bunch of redneck, rake-wielding racists whose sole complaint is that a person of color is holding the office of President.

This is no truer than if I were to make the statement that all liberals were a bunch of nansy-pansy hippies that had nothing better to do but wear Che

Cuevara shirts, smoke marijuana and wax rhapsodic about the hypothetical success of the socialist state.

We all should know by now that blanket statements about groups such as these are always purposely misleading, and I wouldn't assert that my previous example applies to even a majority of those that would classify themselves with that particular ideology.

The most idiotic assertion that runs rampant about those that identify with the Tea Party movement is that they're all a bunch of racists who are only protesting because Barack Obama's father was black. The reprobrates that provide these assertions are actually saying that if one disagrees with President Obama's policies, one simply must be a racist because Obama isn't white.

Following that logic, anyone who may well disagree with the anti-Semitic preaching of Louis Farrakhan would most definitely be considered a racist, not because of one's consideration of the disappointing content of his character, but only because he is black. Are all white Democrats racist because they disagree with the beliefs of Republican Alan Keyes? According to the asinine assertions of those hurling the cries of racism upon the average Tea Party sympathizer, it would seem so.

These claims completely ignore the fact that the Tea Party groups include and welcome people of all races, but since no decent arguments are easily provided against the roots upon which the movement was founded, worthless epithets must apparently be cast to denigrate it.

The Tea Party movement will continue to sweep across the American political scene for the next few years to come, as a stern response to the irresponsible policies being thrust upon our citizens by the current administration under the deceptive moniker of "progress," even though the only steady progression is the stranglehold of our freedoms by an ever-absorbing bureaucratic leviathan.

The moderate Republicans that helped mire us into this federal nightmare are now being forced out of office, partially due to the tireless labor of love by the Tea Party movement. If we are to move away from subsidizing all of the United States' problems, we had better hope for some change that will wrangle our government back into a small and effective organization.

Shooter is a senior political science major from Lubbock. >> cole.shooter@ttu.edu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stay loud, be respectful

I'm an alumnus of Texas Tech, and I'm very proud of how our university has grown and of the students it is attracting. I'm also impressed with the goals and vision that our chancellor has for Tech.

While on campus, I picked up the Sept. 14 issue of *The Daily Toreador*. I read the letter to the editor, and I think Mr. Gleinser has missed the point of the chancellor's message to the Tech student body. I don't think anyone would agree that we do not want a home field advantage with our stadium and crowd noise.

I also do not think the chancellor wants to minimize that advantage. I love the fact we are loud and that this bothers other teams.

There are a couple of observations I'd like to make as a season ticket holder and a graduate of Texas Tech.

1. I do not see how drowning out the visiting team's school song gives Tech an advantage. It just leaves a sour taste in the mouths of those that came and visited our campus and spent money in the city of Lubbock.

2. When I was young and my parents were teaching me a lesson, they

never bought the argument I made about what other kids were doing. I feel the same way about us visiting other stadiums. I don't buy the "This is what other schools are doing to us" excuse, and I don't care. I care about how we treat guests with respect and class.

3. My final and most important point is about our school song and language. Our atmosphere on game day should be one of support and being comfortable in bringing your family to a game. This is a tremendous recruiting tool for our university with potential students who are deciding where to go. But what concerns me the most is the lack of respect for our school song.

The way some students sing it has nothing to do with intimidation of our opponents, but everything to do with disrespect for our university.

I feel like it was an honor and privilege to graduate from this university, and I would hope that our student body would feel it is a privilege to sing the school song the way it was intended, with pride.

Mike Simpson is a Tech alumnus from Canyon.

Silence is stupid

Yesterday, I received an e-mail from the student government informing me of a new Texas Tech tradition. (I didn't know all of our previous traditions were installed due to mailed letters to each member of the student body, but OK, I'll bite.)

In a tradition so creatively dubbed "The Silent Treatment," the entire student body will drop silent during the playing of an opposing team's fight song, and turn with their guns up to face the Double T sign. The e-mail stated, "Not only is this intimidating, but it will also catch the opposing team completely off guard." Whoa. What better way to give the opposing team the proverbial "middle finger" than to go completely silent and actually listen to their fight song? Student government is right, there is no way the opposing team will be able to function after that kind of pandemonium.

I want to meet the idiot who thought booping would hurt their egos; we should definitely go with the option that slaps them in the face with respect. OK, sorry, you caught me. I think

this idea is stupid. And I'm tired of hearing about it constantly. Football games are loud and rowdy, college or otherwise.

First of all, I am skeptical it will even be adopted by the student body. I have been hearing about these campaigns my entire four years at Tech, and nothing has ever changed.

Secondly, I am pretty offended by student government's obvious low opinion of my intellect. Do they think I haven't heard about Hance wanting us to clean up our game day demeanor? Am I really that stupid that I wouldn't see through this?

Honestly, I don't especially care what the student section does during the other school's fight song. And for the record, most of the time I just drop the questionable line of our fight song. But I can't believe someone is trying to pressure me into "respecting" the other team. Besides, my parents taught me to never give in to peer pressure.

Kelsey Fletcher is a senior agricultural communications major from Universal City.

Colbert, Stewart should rally for "truthiness" in D.C.

I don't think there's a television host on the air today who has a more loyal and devout following than Stephen Colbert.

Recently, his fan base, which he addresses as the "Colbert Nation," has attempted to coax the television host and his preceding counterpart, Jon Stewart, to hold a rally in Washington D.C. to rival and mock the recent rally held in the same city by conservative pundit Glenn Beck.

Ever since Beck's rally, farcically deemed "Rally to Restore Honor," Stewart and Colbert have reported being bombarded with requests for them to hold an event of their own.

After Colbert offhandedly stated that he would need to see a sign from geese telling him to hold a rally before he would do so, he began getting fake geese mailed to him by viewers.

However, the most recent and most dramatic plea from viewers for the two television hosts to stage an event in Washington D.C. has been an outpour of donations, totaling over \$100,000 in less than 24 hours,

Chris Leal



to Colbert's favorite charity.

The charity is called Donorschoose.org and benefits teachers and students, funding school projects and providing school supplies, etc.

The donations may very well prove effective in swaying Colbert to stage a rally, given the amount donated and his partialness for charities — Colbert sits on the board of directors of Donorschoose.org and has organized various pledge drives before.

I was unaware of the attempts to have the two satirical television hosts stage a rally of their own until I read about the charity donations, but I think such an event, fittingly titled "Rally for Truthiness," would be a good idea.

A "Rally for Truthiness" would provide a platform for the funny men to do

what they do best: indirectly provide balance and point out political falsities and hypocrisies on both ends of the political spectrum, through comedy.

The circumstances of the opposing rhetoric from the Stewart/Colbert duo and Glenn Beck is sort of ironic; Stewart and Colbert address some very serious political issues and make legitimate points, yet do it in a comical and humorous way.

On the other hand, the issues Beck addresses and the points he attempts to make should make one laugh. However, he presents them as legitimate and serious.

A "Rally for Truthiness" couldn't come at a better time. The nation, and the world for that matter, is changing rapidly, and history shows us that rapid change always eventually evokes strong conservative movements in society attempting to hold on to previous status quos.

Economic turmoil, typically regardless of its cause, always reflects poorly on incumbent political powers and births civil distress.

These larger forces have acted in tan-

dem to severely polarize the political climate, leaving the Republicans and Democrats more interested in doing what's best for their party than what's best for their country.

With the current state of two of the largest news networks in this country, Fox News and MSNBC, essentially extensions of their prospective political party — Fox News' parent company News Corp. even donating massive amounts of money to the Republican party — the public is typically fed not an objective and truly informative account of the world they live in, but only what reinforces their current views and benefits a certain political faction.

Amongst all this fear mongering and misinformation, it's refreshing — and beneficial — to hear a few people rebuke this trend and show just how contradictory, trivial and funny mainstream politics can be.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

9/17/10

By John Lampkin

1 "Drop me"
2 Dropping the ball, so to speak
3 First arrival
4 MYOB part
5 English, maybe
6 Arguing
7 Good guy
8 Its mon. unit is the peso
9 Throat-soothing brew
10 Macintosh's apple, e.g.
11 Prefix with bond or dollar
12 legs
13 Game company first called Syzygy
14 Hand-tightened fastener
15 What misters do
16 Ford muscle car, to devotees
17 Lithographer James
18 Fabled fiddler
19 Generate interest
20 Damp area growth
21 The Eagles' "___ Eyes"

34 Big Mack
35 60606 and 70707, e.g.
36 Proctor's announcement
37 "Iliad" hero
38 Much of Chile
39 Portray
40 Ribbed
41 How deadpan humor is delivered

53 Terse concession
54 Jazz pianist McCoy
55 New Mexico's official neckwear
56 Fire
57 Be inclined (to)
58 Shelter org.
59 Some eggs
60 Long lead-in

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25% of the proceeds donated to the Lubbock Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure

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RaiderGATE to feature Park

By **KATHERINE ROWE**
STAFF WRITER

Texas Tech Activities Board is hosting Kyle Park this weekend at RaiderGATE. The event is open to the community for free.

Celeste DiPaolo, a sophomore English major from Albuquerque, N.M., said she is expecting a lot of students at Saturday's event. She is in charge of this weekend's RaiderGATE.

She said the RaiderGATE committee picked Texas country singer Kyle Park, who begins the concert at 4:30 p.m., because he was willing to play on a college campus and appealed to many Tech students.

Jose Olascoaga, a senior cellular molecular biology major from Lima, Peru, helped DiPaolo and the committee. He said the theme for the music at RaiderGATE is country, although it is not his personal taste.

"I think most of us would rather do a different kind of music, but country is what people like down here," Olascoaga said. "Country is what gets most people over here. We try to get as many different artists in different areas of music from

around the area."

TAB is also hosting a beef cook-off. The deadline for contestants to enter is 4:15 p.m. Saturday. TAB will have five students who are working the tailgate judge the cook-off.

"Anybody who wants to can sign up, can participate and bring in their own special beef recipe," Olascoaga said.

Harsh Panchamia, a senior finance major from Lubbock, said this RaiderGATE will be fun to attend, despite his distaste for country music and beef.

"I like when everybody is chanting and getting ready for the game," Panchamia said. "An hour before, students start yelling 'Raider power,' and that just gets you excited and spirited for the game."

He also enjoys visiting other organizations to see how they get ready for the game.

"If there is a showcase going on or someone playing music, like this Saturday, I like to go see that," he said.

Olascoaga said RaiderGATE creates a sense of camaraderie among the participants.

"Whenever you go to RaiderGATE, you really get a sense of community, and

you get really excited," he said. "The atmosphere there really gets you really prepped for the game. Everyone walks to the game together, yelling 'Raider power' with their guns up all day. By the time you get to the game, you're really into it."

Although the weekend's festivities bring a lot of excitement, DiPaolo said they have taken certain precautions to keep the attendees safe.

"Absolutely no glass is allowed on the lot, so all beverages will be kept in a RaiderGATE cup that we provide for free," she said. "We have security, so we can feel safe with leaving our cars parked there during the entirety of the game."

Safe Ride will provide designated drivers to ensure students' wellbeing.

DiPaolo's involvement is sparked by the tradition. She is interested in incorporating the Raider Walk next year, so there are not any time conflicts with concerts or events TAB is organizing.

"I like how many people show up and the school spirit that is involved; it is a part of Texas Tech tradition," DiPaolo said. "It'll be an awesome event. Kyle Park is going to be huge, and it is free."

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Reiss draws laughs at TAB comedy night

By **ALEXANDRA PEDRINI**
STAFF WRITER

Thursday night the Tech Activities Board hosted its first comedy night of the year, featuring Ryan Reiss.

This standup comedian, writer and actor, who has been featured on WE's "Three Guys and a Chick-flick," "MTV's TRL," Nickelodeon's "U Pick Live" and the "Howard Stern Show," is now making his rounds playing shows at various colleges thanks to his college booking agent. After playing a concert at Cowboys Stadium, where TAB heard about his act, they chose to bring him to Lubbock.

Opening his act, he said he was excited to be making his second trip back to Texas, but surprised to find the Bass Pro Shop in the airport.

Before coming to Texas Tech, Reiss said, he spent time in Wichita, Kan., where there was "lots of room to bury bodies," and that's about it. Now in Texas, with the new idea of picking cotton in his mind, he poked fun at Tech students in the

audience, a well known all-men's spirit group, "Saddle Sluts" as he deemed them, and the school's stereotypes, but assured his audience comedians don't mean to offend people in their acts.

"It's such a pleasure to be in front of people that understand what a joke is," Reiss said.

After asking the audience for something the school is known for, one student yelled out, "Raider rash." Instead Reiss heard "river rash" and proceeded to make references to this throughout the night.

"I thought he was really funny, maybe a little inappropriate at times, but since everyone was laughing, I just felt like I was comfortable enough to laugh too," said Kathryn West, a sophomore psychology major from Mansfield.

Also on his set list - a variety of racial jokes. Between the students in the audience, his friends, neighbors and self, Reiss had plenty of material ranging from how he joined a gang by one of his neighbors saving him a parking spot to why, unlike the rest of the world, Americans don't like soccer.

The Harlem resident also ex-

plained his theory of why Hispanics and African Americans can look good in anything, whereas white guys look like dorks.

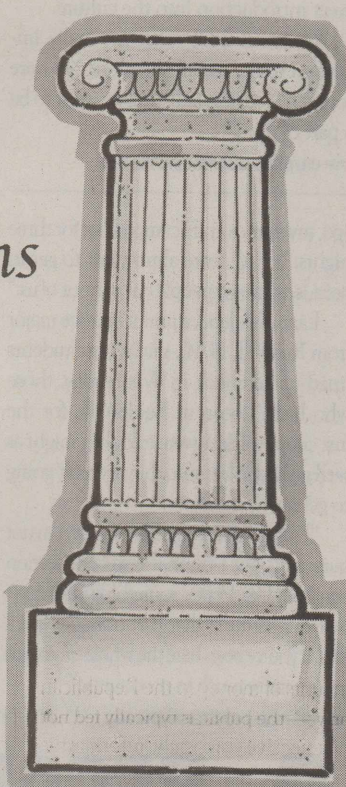
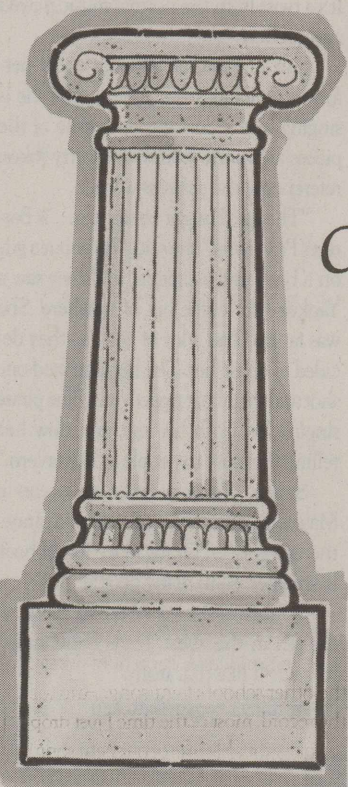
TAB's Night Life Coordinators chose to bring this act in because they thought he was funny, said TAB member Derek Kekheimer, a graduate marketing student from Richmond, who had seen Reiss perform before. Although it had been a few years since he saw the performance, and he was not on the Night Life Committee when they chose to bring him to Lubbock, he said he was excited to see him again.

When TAB saw Reiss's performance at a conference, they knew what type of act they were getting and what they were getting themselves into, he said. Many colleges are worried about how something will be perceived, but TAB was only concerned with him being funny.

"I'd love to come back," he said to a fan, before taking a picture with him. "This was a great audience, and I'd love to come back. It was a pleasure to do."

>>>alexandra.pedrini@ttu.edu

GREEK PEEK 2010



Congratulations
to all the new
members.

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New Member Class
Fall 2010

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
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| Megan Anderson | Katie Finley | Lindsey Kozlovsky | Helen Raines |
| Devon Bailey | Elle Francis | Haley Lamb | Calli Redwine |
| Amy Baker | Taylor Gainan | Allison Martinez | Laurel Roberts |
| Shelby Baumann | Morgan Harder | Alexa McDaniel | Kendra Schumacher |
| Kate Beavers | Nikki Hart | Jessica McConachie | Katie Shanklin |
| Baylee Burchfield | Jenny Hathaway | Danielle McNeese | Morgan Selph |
| Shelby Burdoin | Ashlee Hemphill | Sam Meckel | Jennie Spurlock |
| Margaret Byrne | Meredith Henderson | Molly Mickelson | Amanda Stallcup |
| Britney Cheatham | Kaitlyn Hilliard | Jaz Muckelroy | MacKenzie Tarter |
| Katie Clark | Sami Holley | Michelle Mullins | Erin Waterman |
| Anne Deady | Kayla Jones | Lindsay Nelson | Kate Westfall |
| Maygan DiTucci | Krista Kerski | Haley Nickel | Katy Wetmore |
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- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
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| Paige Beighle | Kaitlin Kobisek |
| Ashley Bennett | Amy Lillibridge |
| Bailey Bishop | Melanie Mahomed |
| Sherice Brown | Elizabeth Martinez-Schulze |
| Rebecca Byrne | Ashanti McCarthy |
| Victoria Cain | Madison McClellan |
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| Gabby Carpenter | Stephanie Moya |
| Shelby Caskey | Starr Mullins |
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| Amanda Coyle | Kristin Nobis |
| Ashley Daggs | Elizabeth Payne |
| Melissa Daniels | Kristen Richardson |
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| Abby Gallegos | Samantha Steifel |
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| Kerbi Irvin | |

Chi Omega

would like to congratulate our new members of 2010

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
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| Ashley Alston | Morgan Humphrey | Martha Rodriguez |
| Sara Arnet | Melissa Hurley | Samu Sanches |
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| Elizabeth Bayliss | Jenna Kassul | Meagnn Shaunfield |
| Lindsey Beedy | Kathryn Kilgore | Elizabeth Smith |
| Alex Bell | Alexis KingMackenzie | Stormy Veatch |
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| Erika Cervantes | Veronica Marinelarena | Ashby Wieligman |
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| Chelsea Daignault | Olivia OMs | |
| Lydia Domenech | Luaren Ashley Owen | |
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| Molly Fox | Paige Phillips | |
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| Lizzy Gomez | Reagan Richie | |
| Hannah Hodges | Jamie Ricketts | |



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|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
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| Annie Benavides | Jessie Harman | Natalie Saputa |
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Congratulations to the TriDelta

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- | | | |
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| Barber, Brooklyn | Eckeberger, Amy | McAleer, Chelsey |
| Blakenship, Jessica | Else, Cherokee | Pinkston, Courtney |
| Blasingame, Jordan | Ervine, Kelly | Plunk, Jordan |
| Board, Ashton | Fennell, LeAnna | Popejoy, Sarah |
| Bridwell, Summer | Fjelden, Brooke | Scott, Erin |
| Brierton, Allie | Foreman, Megan | Scott, Mallory |
| Brown, Mamie | Freeman, Tori | Siler, Lauren |
| Burns, Madison | Gambrel, Laura | Sorsby, Laura |
| Burr, Chelsea | Georger, Candace | Striffler, Saylor |
| Byrom, Sarah | Gustafson, Catherine | Terrell, Alex |
| Chavez, Cara | Hert, Emily | Thompson, Jessica |
| Connally, Maggie | Hyatt, Darcey | Wallner, Katie |
| Cook, Christina | James, Charlotte | Wikle, Chelsea |
| Crowe, Haley | Jorgenson, Aimee | Williamson, Kelsey |
| | Kallina, Kathryn | Wilson, Alissa |
| | Keener, Emily | Yantis, Kacie |
| | | Young, Shelby |

Tech students, faculty celebrate El Grito: Mexico's independence

By CAROLINE COURTNEY
STAFF WRITER

Wednesday night, millions of Mexican citizens celebrated their 200th independence day, El Grito. But they were not the only ones celebrating.

In an effort to celebrate culture, 12 Hispanic student societies, along with the Cross-Cultural Academic Advancement Center and 400 Texas Tech students, joined outside the Student Union Building to celebrate Mexico's independence.

"The students will get to see the culture and participate in it as well," said Leticia De Larrosa, unit coordinator of the Cross-Cultural Academic Advancement Center. "We will have mariachi bands, and the students will get to dance and eat Mexican food."

After the dancing and music, an actor played the part of Miguel Hidalgo, the priest who paved the way for Mexican independence, and taught students about Mexico's history.

"Hispanic students were born here in the U.S. but don't know their heritage because maybe they weren't brought up to learn that," De Larrosa said. "So through Miguel Hidalgo and the video tonight, we have all this history we can teach them."

Another unit coordinator at the advancement center, Martha Mouret-Sanders, said this event was not solely for Hispanic students, though.

"We have people from all of the Tech



A MARIACHI BAND plays Wednesday night at the Student Union Building in celebration of Mexico's bicentennial independence.

community," Mouret-Sanders said. "It's a multicultural event. It's led by Hispanic students, but it's for everybody to learn and have fun."

Around 11 p.m., the advancement center played a live feed from Mexico City so the students and faculty in attendance could literally interact with the celebrations in Mexico.

"This is an event for students to learn about their heritage and the culture of others," Mouret-Sanders said, "but it's really a fun event, too. This is something the students asked for. They really en-

joyed it last year and asked to do it again."

Last year, the advancement center planned this event for around 30 students, and nearly 300 attended. This year, they planned a much larger event, inviting 700 people on Facebook and requesting faculty to invite their students.

Briar Deen, a senior microbiology major from Hobbs, N.M., said his Spanish professor told his class about the event, and he wanted to come to experience Mexican culture and have a good time.

"I love the food. I like the music a lot, and the dancing, too," Deen said. "I'm

probably not going to dance, but I definitely like watching other people do it."

Deen said he was impressed by the large number of students. Nearly 400 were in attendance.

"It shows that celebrating other cultures is fun," Deen said. "That's why I'm here."

Demetria Garcia, a freshman from Marble Falls, said she attended El Grito to have fun and participate in her own culture.

"My parents are both Mexican," Garcia said, "and this may be important to them. For me, it's a fun thing to do. I love to watch the dancing."

Garcia said the celebration is a good way to meet people from the same background as her and to teach others about Mexican culture.

Teresa Hulsey, a junior psychology major from Haslet, said she attended to experience the culture and prepare for future encounters with Mexico.

"I'm a Spanish minor, so I'm very interested in that culture," Hulsey said. "I'm also studying abroad in Mexico next summer, so this is a great way to see what it's like."

Hulsey said she hopes to get involved with more events like the Hispanic groups at Tech are doing. She said this event is a great introduction into the culture.

"A lot of things that are really important to the Mexican culture are here tonight," Hulsey said. "I really want to be a part of that."

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Pirate-themed concert to complement National Talk-Like-a-Pirate Day

By BRITTANY HOOVER
STAFF WRITER

Although the title "Pirates, Freebooters and Jolly Jack Tars: The Celts at Sea" may sound like a box-office hit or a show on the History Channel, it's actually the name of Texas Tech's Celtic Ensemble's fall concert coming up this weekend.

The ensemble will play a variety of sea shanties and other traditional folk songs from the seven Celtic nations at the concert at 7 p.m. Sunday at The Legacy, said Christopher Smith, director of the ensemble.

Unbeknownst to Smith, an associate professor of music, he scheduled the concert on National Talk-Like-a-Pirate Day, a holiday started by two friends, John Baur and Mark Summers, in 1995, according to talklikeapirate.com. The holiday was publicized by syndicated columnist Dave Barry in 2002 and popularized by social media networks like Facebook during the last few years.

"I didn't plan that," Smith said about the coincidence of the date. "I knew I needed to set the concert date, and it's usually on a Sunday evening. I chose the music and then afterward, someone came up to me and asked, 'Did you know that's Talk-Like-a-Pirate Day?' I would have never predicted that."

Now, the Celtic Ensemble is encouraging audience members to come in pirate garb: boots, eye patches or bandanas.

"When we found out it was Talk-Like-a-Pirate Day, we decided to take it and run with it," Smith said. "I invited people to come in costume."

The concert will be a fun evening with great music, Smith said. He said the audience can get the experience of travelling by sea like pirates did. "People seem to be picking up on the theme," Smith said. "It's catching people's imagination as something different going on in Lubbock."

The Celtic ensemble is made up of undergraduate and graduate stu-

dents, said Smith. Two faculty members are guest performing: Thomas Cimarusti will play the accordion and William Gelber will recite a poem.

Jesse Ramirez, a senior music performance major from San Angelo, said he is looking forward to performing in the pirate-themed performance.

"It's a really cool concert, and we're excited about it," Ramirez said. "For once we're branching off of what we usually do; we're playing music of the sea."

Ramirez, who will be playing guitar and mandolin in the concert, said the performance will be fun for the audience to get involved in and interact with the musicians.

When pirates were on boats for extended periods of time, one activity they would participate in was singing sea shanties to keep from getting bored, Ramirez said. Tech students can enjoy this glimpse into history by coming to the free concert.

"If they haven't heard it before, it opens up their eyes," he said. "It exposes you to a different kind of music. It's fun music... sea shanties are music of the sea, boat songs, and a lot of music you hear in everyday movies now, like 'Moby Dick.' It's a twist from the normal music played around here."

Erin L. Roberts, a senior vocal performance major from Austin, said she is singing in the concert, and some of the pieces are funny stories with dirty jokes, referencing the ships as women.

"The one I might be singing... is Barrett's Privateers," she said. "It's about a guy on a boat, and a captain, and they saw a Yankee boat come out of nowhere. She was fat and had a lot of gold, so they decided to chase her. The big ship fired one shot and their boat tipped over. The pirate singing lost both his legs, and now he's telling the story to people at the tavern."

Smith, who grew up on the ocean in Massachusetts, said he likes how a pirate-themed concert taking place in Lubbock is unexpected to many people.

"I liked the idea of doing music of the sea in the West Texas Panhandle," he said. "I like that irony."

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Campers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Although there will be a limited number of wrist bands given out, that hasn't stopped more students from coming to camp out, Gardner said.

"There's people camping out in the hopes," he said. "We told them to just go ahead and camp out 'cause, you know, anything can happen. If not, they can be the first ones in line."

Students are ranked in order of when they arrived to Raiderville and how many times they have checked in during the week, Gardner said.

"It's a mixture of Google Documents and another system that we merged together, and it ranks them every time they check in," Gardner said.

He said they reached the 2,000-person limit yesterday afternoon and already know who will be receiving a wristband, but have not announced at what time they will be giving the wristbands out.

"It could be anywhere between Friday morning to Saturday morning," Gardner said.

Robert Greer, a junior mechanical engineering major from San Antonio, said he already knows he will be receiving a wristband to enter the game.

"They told me, I was like number 55

or something," Greer said. "They rank it based on the time that you get here, like, what number that you signed up for and the number of times you swipe in."

Greer, who set up his tent at Raiderville Sunday night, said he believes about 2,500 people are camping out at Raiderville even though there will only be 2,000 guaranteed spots available.

"It didn't stop the other 500," Greer said. "I think they are here in hopes that people won't swipe in and they will move up."

He said Raiderville has been a fun experience, but waiting in line to get his ID swiped is not so great.

"I think it is a lot better than it was two years ago," Greer said. "Two years

ago, my friends and I camped out for three nights, but we were almost last to get in because so many people cut in front of us."

Lance Meleod, a junior finance major from Roswell, N.M., said when students lined up to check in Wednesday, those who hadn't been at Raiderville for the first couple of days were told they might as well go home because they weren't going to get a wristband.

"I think it kind of sucks because, I'm not quite sure, but I think the student section can hold like 15,000 something, so I don't really understand that part of it, but like I said, if you've been here the whole time then you're pretty much in good shape."

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- Muslim Student Association
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- Parent 2 Parent Group
- Persian Student Association
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Tech men, women tennis on the road

By **JOSH KOCH**
STAFF WRITER

With almost a full week of practice complete, the Texas Tech men's and women's tennis teams send players to the Midland Racquet Club Invitational this weekend.

The tournament is a NCAA-sanctioned event for men and women, and the only way a team can participate is via invitation. Play begins today at 9 a.m.

Tech women's coach Todd Petry said these tournaments are a way for them, as coaches, to evaluate each player on an individual basis.

"I'm really looking for who's going to step up in the big-time match against those other schools' ones, twos and threes," she said. "So that's kind of what we're looking for, is who can compete at that level and who's going to turn it on when it's against another team's top. So we can kind of get an idea of placement for the spring."

Petry sends four players to the tournament: sophomores Sandra Dynka, Lorena Aviles and Caroline Starck, and freshman Haley Fournier.

This is the first collegiate action Fournier has seen since the summer.

In the opening round, Fournier faces Fernanda Perrota from Penn State in singles play, and will be paired with Starck in doubles to confront Nebraska's Madeleine Geibert and Stefanie Weinstein.

Dynka will pair up with Aviles to face Pepperdine's Khunpak Issara and Ali Walters in their opening doubles match.

Dynka said it is important for her and her teammates to get off on the right foot to start this season.

"I think it's definitely really important for us to come out strong this weekend," she said, "because last year I think we underestimated how important the fall season really was. I think it's

going to help us prepare for our true season, which is the spring."

Additionally, four players from the men's squad will participate.

Tech tennis coach Tim Siegel is sending sophomores Jeff Bryan and Raphael Pfister, junior David Pace and senior David Gonzalez.

"This is an opportunity for those four guys to try to make an impact because last year they played six, seven, eight and nine basically on the team," Siegel said. "For these four guys, it's very important to try to make an impression and try to do better than they did last year."

Bryan and Pace play Tulsa's Grant Iye and Alastair Barnes in the opening round.

Gonzalez will face Bryan Jinter from ACU, and Pfister plays the winner of the John Harry Warden and Lucas Leppin match.

Pace and Bryan face New Mexico's Carl Ho and Mads Hegelund in the doubles opener, and Gonzalez and Pfister will face Texas' Ben Chen and Chris Camillone.

Gonzalez didn't play much last year due to injury, and Pace contributed some to the team in the spring after arriving in January.

Pfister had a successful 2009-2010 campaign, posting a 23-12 singles record and an 8-6 doubles record.

He played in almost every spot in the lineup except the No. 1 spot last season.

But for all of the players involved, this is simply the start of a new year.

"First tournament's always a new feeling, new year, new start," Pfister said. "Hope I do great, we're practicing hard this week. You know, just first tournament, not a lot of expectations, but just try to play our best and see what happens."

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The DT Staff College Football Pick 'Em

Games of the Week	Kevin Cullen Editor in Chief Overall Record 8-2	Jon Arnold Managing Editor Overall Record 7-3	Jose Rodriguez Sports Editor Overall Record 7-3	Brett Winegarner Electronic Media Editor Overall Record 8-2	Sam Grenadier Photo Editor Overall Record 9-1	Carrie Thornton La Vida Editor Overall Record 8-2	Edmund Rostran News Editor Overall Record 8-2	Britton Peele Opinions Editor Overall Record 6-4
No. 6 Texas @ Texas Tech	Tech 27-21	Tech 45-42	Texas 38-27	Tech 39-33	Tech 31-28	Tech 39-27	Texas 45-31	Tech 33-30
No. 12 Arkansas @ Georgia	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas	Georgia	Arkansas	Arkansas	Arkansas
Georgia Tech @ North Carolina	UNC	UNC	UNC	UNC	Georgia Tech	UNC	UNC	Georgia Tech
Clemson @ No. 16 Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn
No. 9 Iowa @ No. 24 Arizona	Arizona	Iowa	Iowa	Arizona	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	Arizona

★ indicates "Game to Watch"

Volleyball confronts next Big 12 test

By **JOSHUA KOCH**
STAFF WRITER

It may take a long period of time to study a team and get a game plan together for an opponent, but Texas Tech volleyball coach Trish Knight has had just a few days to do so.

Tech (2-8, 0-1 Big 12 Conference) faces Kansas State (6-5, 1-0) tomorrow at noon in the United Spirit Arena.

"It's not a lot of turn-around time or recovery time for your athletes," Knight said of her team's preparation for K-State. "So today we had a pretty mild practice and mainly worked on serving and serving placement and what we need to do with that a little bit better."

The Red Raiders are coming off a loss to Missouri, but Kansas State is riding in on a wave of momentum after defeating Kansas, 3-1, in the Wildcats' home opener Wednesday night.

Tech has not taken a set from Kansas State since 2007. The Red Raiders last beat the Wildcats in Lubbock in a 3-1 victory during the 2001 season. Tech's last victory against K-State was in 2004, when the Red Raiders won 3-2 in Manhattan, Kan.

The Red Raiders held their own against the Tigers through stretches in their home opener, but fell 3-0 in the end.

The errors and low hitting percentage did not help the Red Raiders' quest for their first Big 12 Conference victory in over two years.

That streak now is at 60 consecutive matches.

The team has had limited time to get ready for the Wildcats because of the tight scheduling, but Jackie Vincent said the team is going to fix a lot of things and will be ready for the Wildcats.

"Basically, we're going to take what we did during practice this whole week and the game and just make it better," she said. "And then add some more stuff, fix our mistakes so we don't do them in the game, but basically just go even more harder this time around."

But Tech also had some trouble

losing out sets against the Tigers Wednesday.

Tech at one point had a 20-18 lead, but didn't finish the set as the Tigers went on a 5-1 run to win the set and match.

Sheridan Burgess, one of the freshmen who played in Wednesday's match, said putting the pedal down to finish the match is on the list of things they want to improve before facing the Wildcats.

"I would just say that we don't need to be so timid toward the end of the match," she said. "We talked about that today. Just staying aggressive, keep pushing through, just playing as a team, and just pushing to the end and not quitting."

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Tech

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Two games into this young season, Gilbert has been held back for the most part, with Texas reverting to a more run-oriented offense led by a trio of running backs in Foswhitt Whittaker, Tre' Newton and Cody Johnson. Whittaker is expected to get the start Saturday.

They're running downhill more underneath the center," Tech head coach Tommy Tuberville said. "They've got good running backs and they want play-action. You don't want to put a young quarterback in a situation where he's got to make all the plays and all the calls."

Saturday's game is Gilbert's first true

road game — the national championship was played on a neutral site, Texas played Rice at Reliant Stadium in front of a Texas-heavy crowd and his third game was in Austin, which may provide for some nerves.

Whether the crowd and nerves affect his play or not, Gilbert knows one thing is for certain: Tech's defense will do everything in its power to throw his play off.

"I do know that they do mix in a lot of four down (linemen), a lot of three down (linemen)," Gilbert said. "They're going to be very aggressive. They're going to fly to the ball, and we're going to have to be very sharp offensively and really execute our game plan well."

The signal-caller story is virtually opaque on Tech's side of the field.

Potts has the experience of playing in hostility that Gilbert doesn't. Potts and the Red Raiders nearly escaped with a win against Texas in Austin last year, losing 34-24, on a night where Potts threw for 420 yards on 46-of-62 passing for three scores and one interception.

In that game, Potts out-duelled McCoy, who threw for 205 yards, one score and two picks.

"I think this season I am a little more mature as far as understanding the game and what's at stake every week," Potts said.

With that said, it is only week three, but impact of this game looms large considering it is both teams' Big 12 Conference openers. The only other teams

starting conference play this weekend are Kansas State and Iowa State.

This too, will be Tuberville's greatest evaluation as the head coach of Tech football to this point. This game is undoubtedly the best measuring stick of where Tech and Texas stand at the moment, but Tuberville believes there isn't a clear-cut better squad.

"I think both teams are off to a good start," Tuberville said. "There are not any indicators of who is the better team."

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Secondary may be primary concern

More than 2,000 people in Raiderville, thousands more season ticket holders and thousands of Texas Tech fans around the world rejoice. Tomorrow the long wait is finally over.

Oh, of course the season started, but the games against SMU and New Mexico were Christmas Eve to Saturday's visit from Santa, the salad to this weekend's steak dinner.

Finally, Tech plays a game that matters. A conference game against rival Texas no less.

But the enthusiasm and excitement fans have for this fixture is being tempered a bit by their fears.

Tech nearly threw the SMU game away, letting the Mustangs back into the contest in the second half. New Mexico lost their first game by getting shut out 72-0, but Tech wasn't able to put the hurt on the Lobos as much as some would have liked.

Those spirits are lifted, though, when examining Texas' form in their first two games. The Longhorns looked stiff in week one against Rice and faced a deficit early against Wyoming.

It was their running game that got them out of the woods against the Cowboys, and Tech's defense hasn't defended the run well. But this game will be decided in the secondary.

The Red Raiders' defensive backs were beat up coming into the season, and if that wasn't bad enough, the group is already a little green. The unit played admirably against SMU, with interceptions from underclassmen Jarvis Phillips, D.J. Johnson and Tre' Porter. The secondary tacked on two more picks to their total in Albuquerque, N.M. with Phillips grabbing his second of the season and Will Ford joining the fray.

The unit is young for Texas Tech, but so far they've performed well, especially when the defensive line gets pressure on the quarterback. Cody Davis should be

Jon Arnold



on the way to an all-conference season, if anyone paid attention to the first two games. His safety counterpart Franklin Mitchem was out for the majority of the New Mexico game, but is expected to return for the game Saturday.

Though the Longhorns are committed to running, there will no doubt be opportunities for this group to force turnovers and rattle Texas quarterback Garrett Gilbert's confidence in his first college road start.

Quarterback Taylor Potts was rattled in the same situation last year. He played what may have been his best game as a starter last season in Austin, but took blow after blow from the Texas defensive line.

Meanwhile, Texas' vaunted secondary has only grabbed one pick so far this year. They're hungry for more. Potts hasn't thrown an interception this year, though that's not to say he hasn't given defenses opportunities. He threw a sure interception to New Mexico's Joe Stoner, but Stoner proved why he's a linebacker and promptly dropped the ball.

Texas safety Blake Gideon's dropped ball in 2008 notwithstanding, if Potts throws up a duck, this Texas secondary will make him pay. Again, turnovers will be absolutely vital, and Tech can't waste offensive possessions.

The touchdowns and big gains are still coming through the air for Tech, so if Potts and his receivers get the best of the Longhorn secondary, they'll likely pull the upset and give Red Raider fans the bragging rights. At least for one year.

Arnold is the DT's managing editor. >> jon.arnold@ttu.edu

Tech soccer takes on 'Bama in rematch of double OT loss

By **TOMMY MAGELSEN**
STAFF WRITER

Erin Wikelius hasn't forgotten last season's double-overtime loss to Alabama.

"It was a haunting loss for me and the entire team last year," the sophomore goalkeeper said. "Every countdown from then on, I think about that game, and how important it is to play every second of the game because you never know what can happen."

Wikelius allowed a goal with two seconds remaining last year against Alabama that saw a 1-1 tie turn into a heartbreaking 2-1 loss. What made the loss worse, Wikelius said, was how the Red Raiders dominated most of the game.

"This is the game that I've wanted the worst out of any game that I could replay last year," she said. "I've never seen a game come down to that close with that little of time left. We obviously had our chances last year — we completely dominated, but it just shows us that it doesn't matter how the entire games been played."

"It matters who puts away the chances when you have them."

The Red Raiders (7-1) take on Alabama (4-2) at 7 p.m. today in Tuscaloosa, Ala., at the Alabama Soccer Stadium.

In last season's loss to the Crimson Tide, forward Dawn Ward netted in Tech's lone goal in the 59th minute. The Red Raiders outshot Alabama 30-6 in the loss. Ward had nine shots in last year's game, including six on target.

"We want revenge, we want to win and we want a good win," Ward said.

Even though the Red Raiders may be looking for a spot of revenge



PHOTO BY SAM GRENADIER/The Daily Toreador

Texas Tech midfielder Mallory Yacullo crosses the ball past Oral Roberts defender Leah Bickers during Lady Raiders' 1-0 victory over the Golden Eagles Sunday at the John Walker Soccer Complex.

against the Tide, they won't look past the importance of ending the nonconference slate with a victory. Today's game is Tech's final nonconference test before Big 12 Conference play begins next weekend.

"We have a great record so far, but if we can make this win we can go into conference with a lot of confidence," Ward said, "and you know we want to continue to win."

On the season, Tech's seven wins have all come from shutouts. The Red Raiders have outscored opponents 15-2. In wins last weekend against North Texas

and Oral Roberts, Tech managed just one goal in each game. However, they played without co-captain Taylor Lytle for parts of the North Texas game and the entire Oral Roberts contest because of an injury.

But the junior midfielder — tied for the team lead with four goals — is expected to play and make an impact today, said Tech coach Tom Stone. Midfielder Hayley Haagsma, who went down with a leg injury Sunday against Oral Roberts, is still day-to-day, Stone said Tuesday.

Stone said he believes his team will give their best effort tonight, just like they

always do. But he doesn't want his team to focus purely on the revenge motive in today's game.

"(Last year's loss) was painful," Stone said. "We outshot them (30 to 6), and two defensive breakdowns led to one of the most disappointing losses of the season. None of our returners have forgotten that."

"But you know it's not about revenge or about let's go get them, it's about learning from that and apply it to your future, and I think we've applied the mentality and the things we've learned that day."

>> thomas.magelsen@ttu.edu

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THE DAILY TORREADOR

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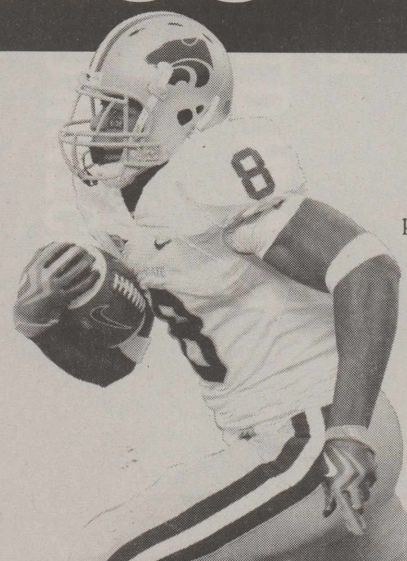
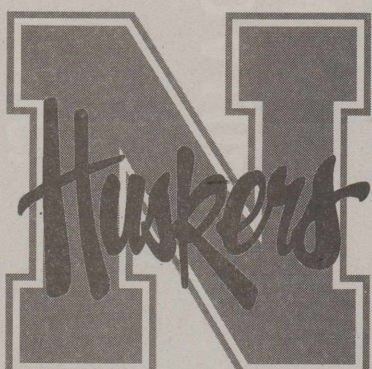
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Big 12 Conference - NORTH

Nebraska Cornhuskers

By Jose Rodriguez

The Cornhuskers enter their final season in the Big 12 before officially joining the Big Ten Conference in Fall 2011. The Cornhuskers join fellow North division foe Colorado, which is scheduled to join the Pac-10 within the next two years. In the meantime, Nebraska enters the 2010-11 season led by redshirt freshman quarterback Taylor Martinez, who ranks third in the Big 12 in rushing with 284 yards despite his position on the field, and running back Roy Helu Jr. Martinez ranks seventh in the conference in total offensive yards per contest. With that said, the Cornhuskers hope to improve upon last season's conference finish, when then-No. 22 Nebraska came within seconds of knocking off then-No. 3 Texas in the 2009 Big 12 Dr. Pepper Championship — the Longhorns won that game on a last-second field goal. Now, Nebraska seems to be en route to a potential rematch with Texas, or perhaps a showdown with Oklahoma, the favorite to win the south division. Nebraska opens Big 12 play against Kansas State at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 7 in Manhattan, Kan.



Kansas St. Wildcats

The Wildcats may not be the favorite to win the North, but Kansas State probably has the best individual player not just in the division, but in the entire Big 12 Conference, in Doak Walker Award candidate Daniel Thomas. The 6-foot-2, 228-pound running back rushed for 1,265 yards last year, leading the Big 12 in rushing. By the looks of things thus far, Thomas could be at the top of the conference once again — Thomas has piled up 371 yards rushing in K-State's first two games. Thomas is second in the Big 12 behind Oklahoma State's Kendall Hunter, and third in the nation behind Hunter and Michigan quarterback Denard Robinson. The Wildcats look to continue making strides under head coach Bill Snyder's second season at the helm. Snyder, who returned to Manhattan, Kan., in November 2008, is known for making the "greatest turnaround in the history of college football" when

DANIEL THOMAS — FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

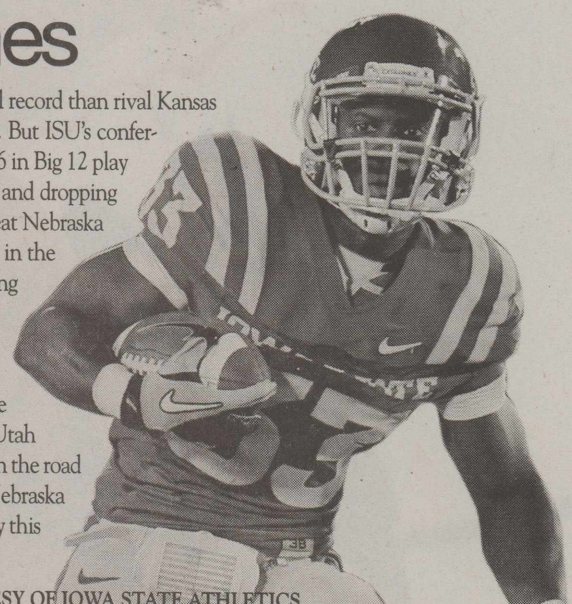
Missouri Tigers Iowa St. Cyclones



The team that should pose the biggest threat to Nebraska is Missouri, led by junior quarterback and Davy O'Brien Award watch listee Blaine Gabbert, which finished runner-up to the Cornhuskers in the division last year. The Tigers have won their first two games of the season, a 23-13 win against Illinois in St. Louis and a 50-6 rout of McNeese State in Columbia, Mo. Gabbert leads the conference in completion percentage, converting 75.9 percent of his attempts despite the loss of big-play wide receiver Danario Alexander. However, it's the Mizzou defense, not the offense, which has impressed early in the season. The Tigers' defensive unit ranks second in points allowed at 9.5 per outing, and poses the second-ranked pass defense, allowing 130.5 passing yards per game thus far. Additionally, Mizzou is first in the Big 12 in turnover margin, averaging three turnovers through its first two matches. The Tigers' schedule, however, may be one of the toughest among Big 12 teams. Mizzou goes through a four-week stretch consisting of games against

Texas A&M, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Texas Tech. The A&M, Oklahoma and Tech games all will be on the road. Mizzou will see its first conference action against Colorado Oct. 9 in Columbia, Mo.

Last season, the Cyclones finished with a better overall record than rival Kansas State, finishing 7-6 compared to the Wildcats' 6-6 record. But ISU's conference record was a different story. The Cyclones finished 3-6 in Big 12 play last season, losing to their first two conference opponents and dropping three of their last four conference games. But ISU did defeat Nebraska in Lincoln, Neb., and capped off the season with a victory in the Insight Bowl against Minnesota. Aside from returning starting quarterback Austen Amund, who ranked seventh in the Big 12 last season in total offense, the Cyclones welcome back senior running back Alexander Robinson, who rushed for 1,195 yards and six touchdowns. One knock on ISU may be its schedule. The Cyclones host Texas Tech and No. 20 Utah back-to-back weekends, then spend the next two playing on the road at No. 7 Oklahoma and No. 6 Texas before hosting No. 8 Nebraska on Nov. 6. Robinson and the Cyclones open up Big 12 play this weekend in Kansas City against Kansas State.



ALEXANDER ROBINSON — PHOTO COURTESY OF IOWA STATE ATHLETICS

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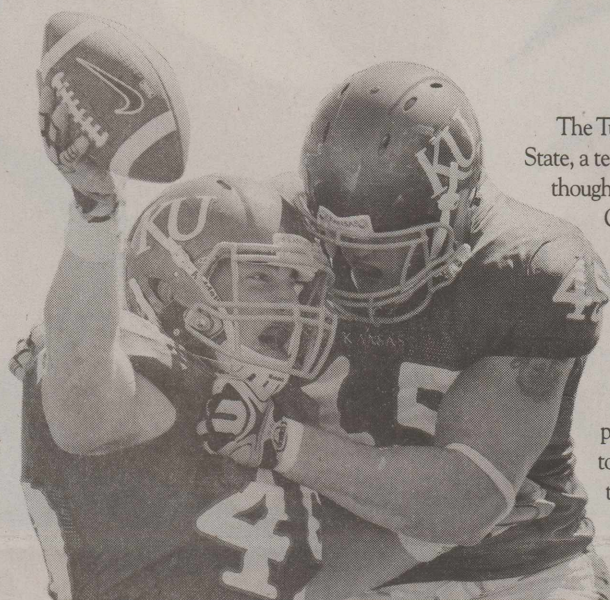
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JUSTIN SPRINGER — PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DAILY KANSAN

Kansas Jayhawks

The Turner Gil era in Lawrence, Kan., got off to a rocky start after his Jayhawks lost to North Dakota State, a team out of the FCS, opening weekend by a score of 6-3. His team didn't take long to respond, though. Kansas bounced back from that loss to upset then-No.15 Georgia Tech, also at home, 28-25. Gil, in his first year as the head coach of the Jayhawks, leads Kansas into the 2010-11 season after the Jayhawks finished last in the Big 12 North last season. Changes to the program, aside from Gil's hiring, include the firing of former head coach Mark Mangino and the departures of wide receiver Dezmon Briscoe and quarterback Todd Reesing, who led the program to a 12-1 record in 2007 and the 2008 Orange Bowl — the program's first ever BCS bowl appearance. Reesing ranked second in the Big 12 last season in total offense, while Briscoe ranked second all-purpose yardage. However, it's the KU defense that has been surprising people at the moment. The Jayhawks possess the top-ranked passing defense in the Big 12, allowing just 105.5 yards per game through the air. KU ranks fifth in total defense. A big part of the defensive surge has been linebacker Justin Springer, who is second in the conference in tackling with 22 tackles, along with one sack. Kansas takes the field tonight against Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Miss. The game will be televised on ESPN.

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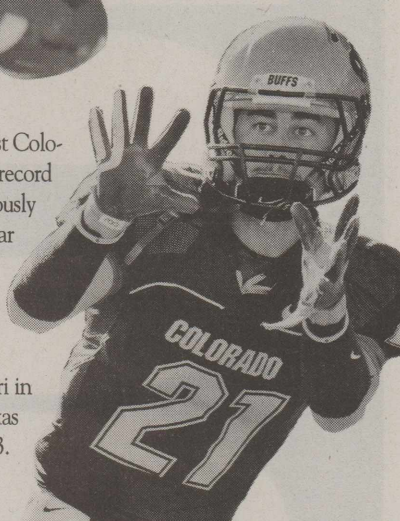
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Colorado Buffaloes

The Buffaloes, like Big 12 North rival Nebraska, is bolting out of the Big 12 Conference, opting to join the Pac-10 within the next couple of years. So Colorado may not want to end its tenure in the Big 12 the way it has the past couple of years — towards the bottom of the pack. Colorado's last appearance in the Big 12 Championship game was during the 2005-06 season. The Buffaloes lost to Texas 70-3. Through this season's opening weeks, Colorado has been on both ends of the football spectrum, beating in-state rival Colorado State 24-3 in Denver, then following that with a 52-7 at the hands of California in Berkeley, Calif. Leading the Buffs under center is junior quarterback Tyler Hansen, who beat out head coach Dan Hawkins' son, Cody Hawkins, for the starting slot. Looks for Hansen to rely on top receiver Scotty McKnight, who, against Colorado State, broke the school's all-time record for career receptions, which was previously held by Michael Westbrook. The near future for Colorado remains uncertain, but in the meantime, the Buffs will take on two more nonconference opponents, Hawaii and Georgia, before opening up Big 12 play against Missouri in Columbia, Mo. The Buffaloes host Texas Tech for homecoming, Saturday, Oct. 23.



SCOTTY MCKNIGHT — PHOTO COURTESY OF COLORADO ATHLETICS

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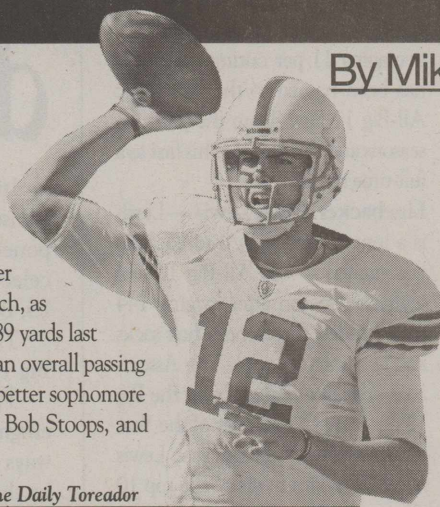
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Big 12 Conference - SOUTH

Oklahoma Sooners

Now ranked No. 7, Oklahoma came out flat in its season opener against a completely overmatched Utah State in a lackadaisical 31-24 win. But Oklahoma surprised everyone with a thorough beating of No. 17 Florida State in Norman, Okla., on Saturday, 47-17. The Sooners are led by second-year starter Landry Jones, who started most games, including Oklahoma's loss at Texas Tech, as a redshirt freshman in place of the injured Sam Bradford. Jones passed for 3,189 yards last year, as well as 26 touchdown passes, but also threw 14 interceptions and had an overall passing percentage of 58.1 percent. With a season under his belt, Jones should have a better sophomore campaign. The Sooners have an impressive home record under head coach Bob Stoops, and return some key players from last year's roster.

LANDRY JONES — FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador

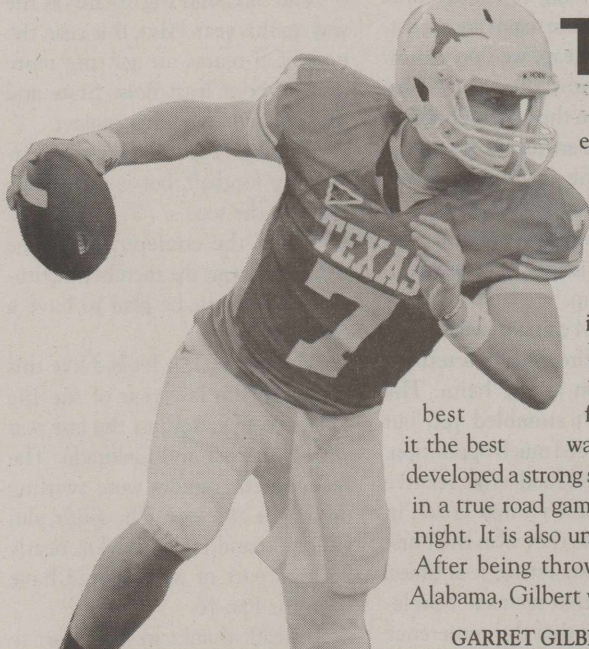


By Mike Graham

Oklahoma St. Cowboys

Oklahoma State has lost star quarterback Zac Robinson to graduation, but junior quarterback Brandon Weeden appears to have curbed the Cowboys' potential dropoff. Weeden, a 27-year-old former professional baseball player, has passed for 566 yards and five touchdowns with a 73.9 passing percentage in a win against Washington State and a narrow three-point victory against Troy. But running back Kendall Hunter appears to be the star of the 2010 Cowboys. He already has 419 rushing yards on just 49 attempts and six touchdowns. For almost a decade, the team with home field advantage comes out on top in the Tech-OSU series. Fortunately for Tech, this season's game will be played at Jones AT&T Stadium.

KENDALL HUNTER — PHOTO COURTESY OF OKLAHOMA STATE ATHLETICS



Texas Longhorns

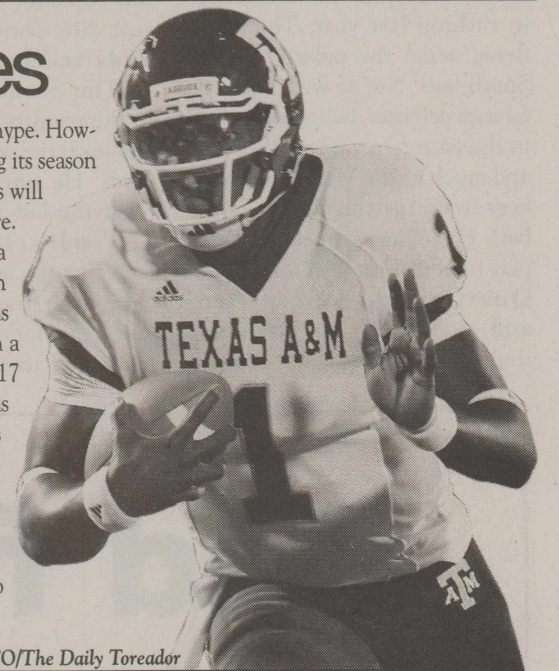
No. 6 Texas is a team that still has to find itself entering the third week of the season. Texas lost four-year starting quarterback Colt McCoy to graduation and has turned over the reigns of the offense to sophomore Garret Gilbert. The Texas coaching staff has determined a run-first attitude this season will serve the Longhorns well and take pressure of their inexperienced quarterback to make perfect throws. Before Texas can start thinking about championships, the Longhorns need to find an approach that works for them, and then find the personnel that can execute way. Along with the troubling factor of not yet having developed a strong suit on offense, Gilbert will be making his first ever start in a true road game when he lines up against the Red Raiders Saturday night. It is also unclear whether Gilbert can handle defensive pressure. After being thrown into the National Championship Game against Alabama, Gilbert was partially responsible for five turnovers.

GARRET GILBERT — PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DAILY TEXAN

Texas A&M Aggies

Texas A&M entered the 2010 season after an offseason of hype. However, it's hard to tell how good the Aggies are. A&M is starting its season with one of the weakest nonconference schedules. The Aggies will have a chance to prove themselves, however, with a trial by fire. After a bye week next week, the Aggies will take on Oklahoma State in Stillwater, Okla., Sept. 30. Quarterback Jerrod Johnson returns for his senior year and has put up strong numbers thus far. He has six touchdowns and has thrown for 671 yards with a 67.9 passing percentage. He also has 81 yards on the ground on 17 rushing attempts. Running backs Christine Michael and Cyrus Gray provide a good one-two punch on the ground. Michael has 214 yards on 36 carries, and Gray has 109 yards on 29 carries. The Tech-A&M should be a competitive game, but A&M will have a strong homefield advantage. Also, the key players from both teams return, and A&M got after Tech in Lubbock last season. That may prove to be an advantage heading into the 2010 meeting.

JERROD JOHNSON — FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador



Texas Tech Red Raiders

The Red Raiders return a lot of the depth from last year's team, including quarterback Taylor Potts and seven-of-eight of the top receivers from the 2009 squad, as well as the two starting running backs from last year — Baron Batch and Eric Stephens. Defensively, Tech returns two of four starting linebackers in Brian Duncan and Bront Bird, as well as defensive tackle Colby Whitlock and the two safeties Cody Davis and Franklin Mitchem. The big questions entering Big 12 play against Texas Saturday pertain to the defensive side of the ball, with the inexperience along the defensive line and at the cornerback positions. But the Tech defense has performed positively thus far against SMU and New Mexico. Duncan alone has four sacks, and Tech has nine as a team. That is a sign of good pressure up front from the defensive line. Meanwhile, the Tech secondary has five interceptions. Later in the season, cornerback LaRon Moore is expected to return from a broken leg he suffered in the spring.

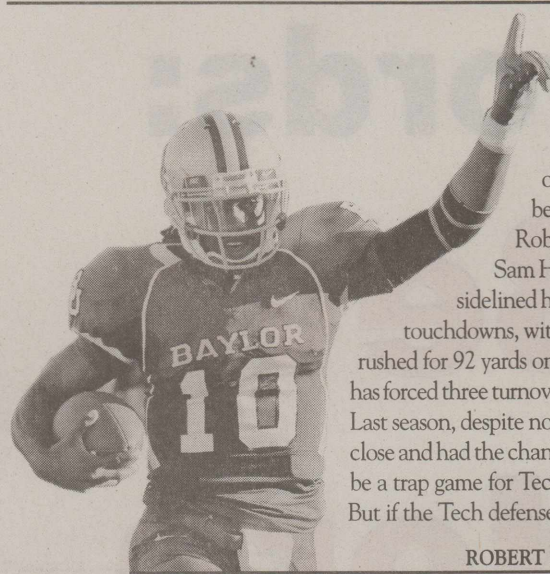
BARON BATCH — FILE PHOTO/The Daily Toreador



Baylor Bears

Baylor is an improving team, but they have the misfortune of still being in the Big 12 South. The Bears have one of the best athletes in the entire conference, though, in quarterback Robert Griffin, who has put up OK numbers so far in wins against Sam Houston State and Buffalo after coming back from an injury that sidelined him most of last season. Griffin has thrown for 539 yards and four touchdowns, with a passing completion percentage of 54.9 percent. He also has rushed for 92 yards on 11 carries — three carries for touchdowns. The Baylor defense has forced three turnovers. Tech and Baylor will square off in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. Last season, despite not having Griffin, the Bears played the Red Raiders dangerously close and had the chance to win on their final drive of the game. The 2010 game could be a trap game for Tech with a tough three-game stretch following the Baylor game. But if the Tech defense can contain Griffin, it will be tough sledding for the Bears.

ROBERT GRIFFIN III — PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LARIAT



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Big 12 Conference Players to watch

Offense 5 to watch:

Quarterback Robert Griffin III — The Baylor quarterback is back after missing the majority of last season with a knee injury. Griffin is back, but seems to have been working on his passing game during his time away. He's passed for four touchdowns in addition to the three he's gathered on the ground.

Running back Daniel Thomas — Somehow, though the Kansas State Wildcat led the conference in rushing last year, Thomas is flying under the radar of Big 12 South fans. Not so with the conference defenses, he's already third in the nation in yardage this year, and much of the Wildcats offense keys around getting the senior the ball. His team opens conference play tomorrow against Iowa State.

Quarterback Austen Arnaud — The Cyclone has had a nightmare start to his season,

with five interceptions to pair with his one touchdown pass, but the dual-threat quarterback will still command plenty of respect. He's amassed 5,536 career passing yards. Plus Arnaud was busy this offseason moving sandbags when Ames flooded.

Running back DeMarco Murray — With more than 100 all purpose yards against Florida State and four touchdown runs on the year, Murray looks set to notch another appearance on an All-Big 12 team which would be his fourth in four years. Murray is the Sooners' preferred running back this year after splitting carries last year with Chris Brown.

Wide receiver Ryan Broyles — The Sooner is already fifth in the country in receiving yards and leads the conference with 266 yards. He surpassed 1,000 yards receiving last year and averaged 12.6 yards a catch in the process. Don't be too surprised if you see the junior trading the crimson and cream for the colors of a NFL team next year.

Defense 5 to watch:

Defensive end Sam Acho — The Longhorn senior out of Dallas provides leadership for a Texas defensive line that will feature some new faces. Acho started all of Texas' 14 games as a junior, becoming a standout on that unit. Acho has two sacks in Texas' wins against Rice and Wyoming. He was named to the preseason watch lists for the Lombardi Award, Lott Trophy, Nagurski Trophy and Outland Trophy.

Linebacker/defensive end Brian Duncan — The Red Raider was expected to have a productive season after new defensive coordinator James Willis made his arrival to Tech from Alabama and moved Duncan to a hybrid linebacker/defensive end position. So far, so good as Duncan leads the Big 12 in both sacks and tackles for losses to this point with four and five, respectively.

Linebacker Justin Springer — Senior linebacker Justin Springer leads a Jayhawk defense that currently ranks fifth in total defense and first in passing defense

in the Big 12 Conference. Springer is second in the conference tackles, averaging 11 per outing. Springer has been named to the Academic All-Big 12 First Team the past two seasons and this season is his first as a full-time starter.

Linebacker Travis Lewis — Lewis is a junior from San Antonio, who was named to the All-Big 12 first team last season after logging 144 total tackles, three and a half sacks and four interceptions. The Associated Press also named Lewis the Big 12 Defensive Newcomer of the Year for his redshirt freshman year. Lewis need 14 tackles to crack the top 10 all-time list for tackles at OU.

Cornerback Prince Amukamara — Amukamara busted onto the Big 12 scene last year, his first as a starter, helping the Nebraska defense lead the nation last year in pass efficiency defense and scoring defense. The senior led the Cornhusker last year in pass breakups and was second in interceptions. Amukamara was named to the Athlon, Phil Steele and Playboy First-Team Preseason All-American teams.

Big 12 set for down season

In the first week of the season, Kansas lost its opener to a FCS opponent. The next week, they were celebrating a victory against a Top 25, BCS conference school.

That's the way it will go in the Big 12 Conference this year.

The conference is a bit of an enigma. Oklahoma and Texas are always good. Nebraska is set to return to the elite, just in time for them to jet off to the Big 10 Conference.

But while those teams are expected to top the heap, we don't know much about how good they'll be. Not to mention the other schools in the conference are just as confusing.

There's the aforementioned Jayhawks. Who knows what will happen in tonight's game against Southern Mississippi? It's the definition of a toss-up.

Texas A&M came in with much preseason fanfare with quarterback Jerrod Johnson at the helm. The Aggies haven't stumbled yet, but they haven't faced much opposition.

Even the Red Raiders are relative unknowns. There's a new coach in town, and while they won their first two games, it was a struggle at times.

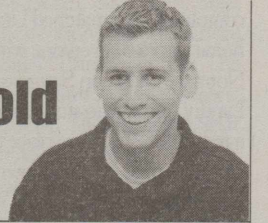
One thing that seems to be relatively certain is that the conference is a bit down this year. When TCU is likely the best team in Texas, it's not going to be the best year in Big 12 history.

Many of the conference's teams are young or going through periods of transition. There were three quarterbacks who were returning and not locked in quarterback battles before the season.

Former Big 12 stars Sam Bradford and Ndamukong Suh went one-two in the NFL Draft, signifying the end of the exodus of the Big 12's resurgence.

The conference's two leading running backs are back, but in a conference that airs it out more than

Jon Arnold



any other, it doesn't have too much of an impact.

The SEC and Big 10 are on the way up this year. Also, this year, the non-BCS teams are getting more respect, or at least Boise State and TCU are commanding respect.

The Big 12 is still a good conference for football, but it can't stake claim to the top.

While the conference may be down this year, the member institutions might just be glad to have a conference.

This summer, it looked like this would be the last year of the Big 12's existence, not just the last year with Nebraska and Colorado. The realignment rumors were swirling during the offseason. The south, plus Colorado and minus Baylor, nearly became part of what would have been the Pac-16.

Instead, thanks in large part to Texas' decision to stand pat, there is still a Big 12, albeit that now seems like a misnomer.

The conference won't be the best, but there will be plenty of entertaining football, starting of course with the Tech-Texas match up tomorrow. There isn't a truly bad team in the Big 12 South with Oklahoma State and Baylor starting off well. And, unpredictability always makes things more fun. If there's one thing the Big 12 can guarantee this year, it's that.

■ **Arnold is The DT's managing editor.**
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