

University of Texas

Longhorns strive for diverse campus

By WES SWIFT
THE BATTALION

In the heart of the Texas Hill Country stands the University of Texas, a school as diverse as its home state.

Established in 1883 on a 40-acre campus with one building, UT now encompasses a mammoth 357 acres and 120 buildings.

The university needs every bit of its massive campus for its equally massive student body, bulging with nearly 48,000 students.

UT students have an opportunity to study a plethora of fields from eight colleges and several additional schools and graduate programs. Students can choose disciplines in more than 100 undergraduate degree and 170 graduate degree programs.

The university's law and business schools are top in the nation in both size and quality. The school also boasts the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs and the state's first presidential library.

The school is only one of three southwestern members of the Association of American Universities, a group of the 58 leading universities in North America.

The faculty at UT is just as impressive as its affiliations. Famous worldwide, the UT faculty boasts recognized professors in several fields, including several Nobel honorees.

But the school's benefits aren't limited to its academic credentials. Surrounded on all sides by the city of Austin, UT is awash in cultural, musical and artistic enrichment.

The city is home to more than 100 music clubs. Austin provides a stage for all kinds of music, from classical to rock 'n' roll, from alternative to rap. The city's 25-plus theaters and 33 galleries offer more than enough opportunities for artistic exposure.

Additionally, Austin also boasts ballet and dance companies, a symphony and an opera.

Austin takes from UT's students as much as the students take from the city. The university spends a sizable amount of its resources for helping the surrounding communities.

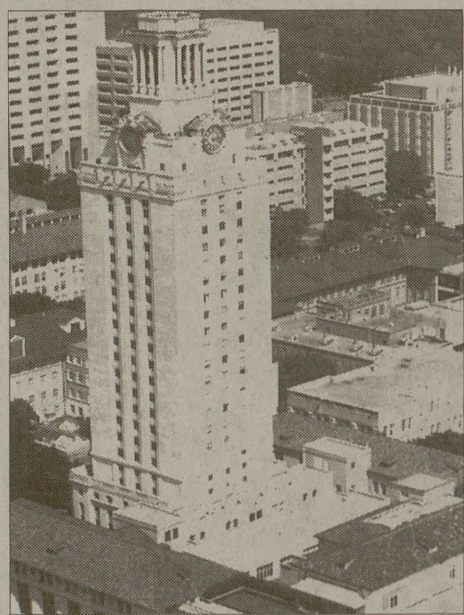


Photo courtesy of the University of Texas
The "UT Tower"

The school provides a criminal defense clinic that dispenses legal advice to people who cannot afford it. UT students also can participate in The Neighborhood Longhorn program, which encourages area children to stay in school.

The Longhorns give back to more than just Austin. The school holds residency camps to enhance the educational opportunities of minority students.

But the UT experience doesn't end when students get their degrees. The university also has one of the largest and strongest alumni associations in the country, The Ex-Students' Association of the University of Texas.

The Ex-Students Association unites alumni with current students through scholarships, teaching awards, travel programs and open houses throughout the year.

When it comes to alumni, UT has an impressive list. Lady Bird Johnson, Walter Cronkite, former Senator Lloyd Bentsen and CBS News anchor Dan Rather all claim the University of Texas as their alma mater.

University of Texas



Location: Austin, Texas
Founded: 1883
Enrollment: 47,957
Coach: John Mackovic
Colors: burnt orange and white
Stadium: Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium. Seats 75,512.
1995 record: 10-2-1
Lettermen returning: 47
Lettermen lost: 16
Returning starters: 14
Titles won: 3 national championships, 25 Southwest Conference titles

Team looks to win South Division

By TOM DAY
THE BATTALION

Much to the chagrin of A&M Football fans last season, the University of Texas ran off with the final Southwest Conference championship.

But that was then, and this is the Big 12. Although Texas faces the more daunting task of tackling stronger opponents in 1996, they still have lofty ambitions — namely claiming a Big 12 title banner.

Heading into the inaugural Big 12 season, the Longhorns are clear-cut favorites to win the league's South Division.

Seven starters return this year from an offensive unit that exploded for a school record 5,199 total yards last season. Quarterback James Brown, who earned SWC Offensive Player of the Year honors in 1995, returns to lead an outfit that finished No. 17 last year with 433 yards per contest.

Overcoming an ailing shoulder for most of 1995, the dynamic Brown threw for a school record 2,447 yards and connected for 19 touchdowns, another record.

Brown's favorite target will once again be two-time all-SWC wide receiver Mike Adams. The senior caught 53 passes for 876 yards and three touchdowns last year.

Senior wide receiver Matt Davis averaged 20.7 yards per catch in 1995 and he will be joined by tight end Pat Fitzgerald and receiver Curtis Jackson, who sat out the entire year with a knee injury.

The Longhorn running attack is just as potent, featuring SWC Newcomer of the Year Shon Mitchell (1,099 yards, 10 touchdowns) and SWC Freshman of the Year Ricky Williams (990 yards, 8 TDs). Senior Priest Holmes, who won the Sun Bowl MVP award in 1994, adds veteran leadership to the running corps.

First-team All-American right guard Dan Neil and second-team all-SWC center Ryan Fiebigger anchor a solid offensive line.

Like the offense, the Longhorn defense returns seven starters. However, the team will have to overcome the huge loss of three defensive linemen, including All-American defensive end Tony Brackens, who opted to depart for the NFL after his junior season.

Possible replacements include sopho-

more Gray Mosier and Curtis Martin, both of whom looked solid in spring drills. But the Horns will fall back on the leadership of junior noseguard Chris Akins.

Second-team all-SWC inside linebacker Tyson King returns to lead a depleted linebacker group along with two-year starter Kyle Richardson. Most Improved Defensive Player in spring training Jonathan Hickerson and inside linebacker Dan Renfro fill out the middle four.

The Longhorns' strength lies in the defensive backfield. Preseason All-American selections Bryant Westbrook and Taje Allen will run at the cornerback positions, and Tre Thomas and first-team SWC selection Chris Carter return to the safety positions.

Phil Dawson returns to handle the kicking duties for Texas. In 1995, the junior connected on 13-of-20 field goal attempts, including four field goals of 50 yards or more.

The Longhorns were dominant in the SWC conquest of a year ago. But whether they can repeat the feat in the Big 12 remains to be seen.



Photo courtesy of UT Sports
Shon Mitchell was the 1995 SWC Newcomer of the Year.

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