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Texas Tech

Red Raiders pride themselves on research



Photo courtesy of Texas Tech University
 Texas Tech's Administration Building Bell Tower

By KRISTINA BUFFIN
 THE BATTALION

Texas Tech University sprang from Lubbock soil in the early 1900s as part of a grass roots campaign to establish a higher education institution in western Texas.

Established as Texas Technological College in 1923, Tech opened two years later with 910 students and only six buildings. More than 70 years later, the school boasts a student population of 24,000, making it one of the largest universities in Texas.

Tech started as an agriculture, engineering, home economics and liberal arts university.

Through the years it has significantly expanded in both academic fields and funding, with \$24 million in research grants and contracts awarded to university researchers in 1995.

The College of Architecture is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year and has earned international recognition for its historical preservation work with the National Park Service.

The Natural Science Research Laboratory holds Tech's frozen

tissue collection, which offers genetic researchers the opportunity to study vertebrates from alligators to zebras.

Another place for research is the Lubbock Lake Landmark State Historical Park where Tech researchers excavated a 12,000-year record of continuous human habitation in the New World.

Perhaps the most recognizable building on campus is the Administration Building. Modeled after La Universidad de Alcalá de Henales in Spain, the building has three floors, a basement, twin bell towers, a salle port, double wings and a courtyard.

Ten portrait medallions line the outside of the building and are divided into historical U.S. figures and Texas hero groups.

On the east side stand statues of Christopher Columbus, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee and Woodrow Wilson. On the west are James Hogg, Albert Sidney Johnston, Davy Crockett, Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston.

Before being nicknamed the Red Raiders in 1930s by Collier Parrish, sports editor of the Lubbock Morning Avalanche, the first suggestion for a mascot

was the "Doggies" in 1925.

But the wife of former Coach E.Y. Freeland suggested "Matadors" and the school as scarlet and black.

The first Red Raider mascot dates back to Jan. 1, 1954. Tech's first Gator Bowl, coached by Eads, a member of the Houston County Sheriff's Posse, came with the idea of a black bear leading the team onto the field.

However, in 1994, Doubleday the mascot, threw its rider and died after crashing into a southwest ramp wall while attempting to leave the stadium.

This was the first time the mascot had fallen in the nation's 40-year history. Now, a horse will circle the field while leading the team onto the field.

Tech has a large bell named "Bangin' Bertha" which is located in the south end zone. During the Tech football games, a group of students called the South Tramps ring the bell after every score and after big plays.

After both home and away victories, the Tramps ring victory for 30 minutes in the east tower of the Administration Building.

Team aims to make strong entrance into Big 12

By KRISTINA BUFFIN
 THE BATTALION

Texas Tech football had a turbulent start in 1995.

The Red Raiders' first game, scoreless for most of the way against McMurry, was embroiled in controversy. Tech's Elson Archibald drop-kicked a 20-yard field goal that appeared to have won the game.

But the referee, who only months earlier had been turned down for the head coaching job, ruled that time had expired before the kick. Since then, Raider football has calmed down a bit.

Some of Tech's most memorable

victories include its 1936 defeat of a Sammy Baugh-led Texas Christian University team, and a 41-7 shellacking of new Aggie coach Paul "Bear" Bryant in 1954.

After 44 years of stability in the head coaching position, the period from 1979 to the hiring of current coach Spike Dykes saw Tech hire six different coaches.

Dykes' tenure began during the 1986 season, and since then the Raider coach has had his share of excitement.

In 1989, Dykes was named SWC Coach of the Year when he led the No. 19 Red Raiders to their most lopsided bowl victory ever, a 49-21 defeat of Duke in the All-American Bowl.

However, the 1993 season was a tumultuous one for Dykes. The Red Raiders began the season 1-5, and while chants for Dykes' firing proliferated, Tech went on to win its remaining games.

In 1994, Tech shared the Southwest Conference title with four other teams while Dykes led his team to the Cotton Bowl and earned his third league Coach of the Year honor.

It was the first time since 1954 that Tech had the opportunity to pick cotton.

The 1996 Red Raiders have the chance to give the Southern teams of the Big 12 a run for their money.

Fifteen starters return from last season's 9-3 team which pummeled Air Force 55-41 in the Copper Bowl. Quarterback Zebbie Lethridge returns for his third year and his primary target, junior tailback Byron Hanspard, is the school's first Heisman Trophy candidate in 20 years.

Lethridge set a Southwest Conference record for consecutive passes without an interception (211) and Hanspard rushed for 668 yards, and 11 touch-



Photo courtesy of Tech Sports
 Quarterback Zebbie Lethridge

downs in the last three games of the season.

The Red Raider defense has five starters from a group that ranked third in the nation in efficiency defense.

However, four solid players including defensive end Tom Daniels, inside linebacker Anthony Armour, outside linebacker Robert Johnson, and safety Dane Johnson will be returning to anchor a solid defense.

Armour will replace departed all-SWC linebacker Thomas. He started all 11 games in 1993 at outside linebacker and was redshirted in 1994, and moved to defensive end and started four games last season.

This season he moves back to the outside linebacker slot, his original position.

Texas Tech University



Location: Lubbock, Texas
Founded: 1923
Enrollment: 24,185
Coach: Spike Dykes
Colors: scarlet and black
Stadium: Jones Stadium. Seats 50,500.
1995 record: 9-3-0
Lettermen returning: 43
Lettermen lost: 17
Returning starters: 15
Titles won: tied with four teams for Southwest Conference title in 1994

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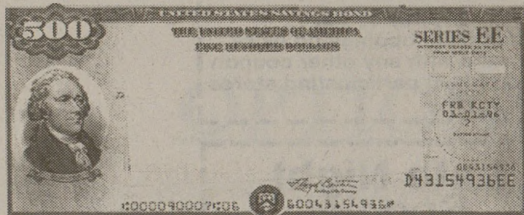
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