

# Texas, OU set for Red River Shootout

DALLAS (AP) — To many folks on both sides of the Red River, the second weekend of October is reserved for the Texas-Oklahoma game, and the renewal of a rivalry filled with color, pageantry and history.

In recent years, though, the Longhorns and Sooners have been playing for more than just interstate bragging rights. Now the entire nation is watching.

When the No. 2 Sooners and No. 3 Longhorns play Saturday, it will be the second time in a row both are ranked in the top five, a feat that's unprecedented in the rivalry's long history.

"I'm proud that the game means what it means nationally now," said Texas coach Mack Brown. "It is like a bowl game at midseason."

Texas and Oklahoma have met in Dallas every October since 1929, rather than Austin or Norman. Each time, they've played inside the Cotton Bowl with the State Fair of Texas going on outside the stadium.

The neutral site is less than a four-hour drive from both campuses, drawing plenty of fans from both sides.

"That setting is so intense that nobody wanders into the stadium by accident," said Fred Akers, Texas' coach for 10 years and an assistant for nine more. "You know there's going to be something significant taking place."

Seeing the dichotomy of colors while walking out the end-zone tunnel is something few ever forget. The late Bud Wilkinson, who coached Oklahoma against Texas 17 times, used to say the crimson and orange in the stands was what he thought of first.

The rivalry intensified in 1996 when the schools became part of the Big 12, both in the South division. Only one team can come out of the division to play for the league title, and the BCS berth that goes with it. Winning

this game doesn't guarantee winning the South, but it sure makes it easier.

Oklahoma was rolling when it came to Dallas last October ranked third. The Longhorns were fifth.

The Sooners led the whole game, but never comfortably. Then, with 2:01 left, safety Roy Williams made a Superman-style leap over a blocker and into Longhorns quarterback Chris Simms, forcing an interception that was returned for the clinching touchdown in a 14-3 win.

Although Simms has lost both games he's played against Oklahoma, he loves everything about the border battle.

"When I go home and people ask me about Texas football, this is the game I always tell them about," he said. "If they want to come to a game, that's the one."

No. 1 Miami plays No. 9 Florida State in an early game Saturday. It should finish about the time the Red River Shootout gets going in Dallas.

Considering the rankings the Sooners and Longhorns have carried into the last two meetings and this one, it's easy to say the rivalry is enjoying its biggest heyday since its greatest era, 1974-'79.

Since the AP poll began in 1936, there have been seven Texas-OU games with both ranked in the top five; this year makes eight. Three came between 1974 and '79.

Those games also featured two Heisman Trophy winners (Texas' Earl Campbell in '77 and Oklahoma's Billy Simms the next year), 38 All-America selections and two College Football Hall of Fame coaches — OU's Barry Switzer and Darrell Royal, the Texas coach through 1976.

The current generation isn't quite at that level. Yet.

"I think this game will be this way from now on," Brown said. "It's two programs that should be this good each year."

## Baylor

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general out there," Taylor said. "In overtime he showed no fear, I saw no fear in his eyes. We were moving the chains and we were scoring."

Last year's matchup between the two schools was closer than many expected and is a game that many Aggies would just as soon forget, despite the fact A&M came away with the victory.

"I don't remember too much about that day," Taylor said. "I don't want to remember too much about that game."

Baylor does remember, and is looking to build upon the success it had last year at Kyle Field.

"There's things we'll draw from going to College Station (last year) and playing well," Steele said. "But they are very minute. This is a different team, a different city, a different game."

The Aggies do have history on their side. A&M has not lost to Baylor since 1985, going 16 straight games without falling to the Bears.

"We've got to worry about Saturday and not so much about the past," Steele said. "But we will bring (the streak) up."

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