



Louisiana Tech Band of Pride

They are the keepers of tradition at Louisiana Tech ... the Band of Pride.

Serving Louisiana Tech in all its glory and led by one of the nation's top directors in Jim Robken, the Band of Pride fills Joe Aillet Stadium on Saturday's with pageantry, tradition, spirit, and well ... pride.

Robken enters his 18th season as director of bands at Louisiana Tech after returning to his alma mater from the University of Arkansas, where he served for 14 years including the final four as director of marching bands.

Robken is assisted by Dr. Gary Westbrook and Lawrence Gibbs who combine with over 200 band members to make every home game as enjoyable as possible for Tech fans and players alike.

Well prior to kickoff, the Band of Pride begins its procession for inspection near Tech Drive marching through the tailgating areas en route to President Dr. Dan Reneau's house for a pregame concert.

The band members donned in their red and blue uniforms then parade back towards the stadium, winding through tailgaters and heading towards the front of the Charles Wylly Athletic Center -- home to Bulldog football.

Robken and Co. form a tunnel leading from Alabama Ave into the football fieldhouse and are joined by Bulldog supporters welcoming the Tech players and coaches in the March of Pride, a tradition that began in 2007.

The Band of Pride highlights both pregame and halftime festivities at Joe Aillet Stadium during each home football game as the award-winning marching musicians entertain Tech fans -- adding to the game-day atmosphere in Ruston.

Following the final horn at each home game, the Bulldog players and coaches walk to the east sideline after shaking hands with the opposing team and hold up one finger to signify unity while the Band of Pride ends the day with the playing of the Tech alma mater.

A few years ago a new tradition was formed by Robken and the Tech Band of Pride as the Victory Band was created ... a smaller group of band members that meet the Bulldog football team on their return home from road trips regardless of time or weather, win or lose.

It's that type of loyalty and dedication that make Louisiana Tech's Band of Pride such an integral part of Bulldog football.

Louisiana Tech's Band of Pride celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2006, and Bulldog fans can rest assured that there will be many more anniversaries to come.

The Band of Pride is the sound of college football on Saturday's in Ruston, earning cheers from Bulldog fans young and old while leading the Dawgs to victory.