

Texas Tech

RED RAIDER FOOTBALL

POSTGAME NOTES

GAME

11



24

TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

6-5, 5-3 Big 12

VS

UCF KNIGHTS

5-6, 2-6 Big 12



23

Nov. 18, 2023 | 4:05 p.m. CT | Jones AT&T Stadium | Lubbock, Texas | FS2

TEXAS TECH

Record	6-5 Overall; 5-3 Big 12
Streak	W3
Head Coach	Joey McGuire
Career Record	14-10 (2nd Season)
Record vs. UCF	1-0
Today's attendance	53,851
Kickoff temperature	63 degrees
Length of Game	3:22

TODAY'S STARTERS

(Offense) - (LT) Monroe Mills, (LG) Jacoby Jackson, (C) Dennis Wilburn, (RG) Rusty Staats, (RT) Caleb Rogers, (QB) Behren Morton, (RB) Tahj Brooks, (TE) Baylor Cupp, (TE) Mason Tharp, (WR) Coy Eakin, (WR) Jordan Brown

(Defense) - (NT) Jaylon Hutchings, (DT) Tony Bradford Jr., (EDGE) Myles Cole, (LB-WILL) Jacob Rodriguez, (LB-MIKE) Ben Roberts, (OLB) Joseph Adedire, (STAR) Brenden Jordan, (CB) Bralyn Lux, (S) Dadrion Taylor-Demerson, (S) C.J. Baskerville, (CB) Malik Dunlap

NOTING THE RED RAIDERS

OFFENSE

QB, Behren Morton (So.)

- Improves to 5-0 in games he's started and finished this season. He's started six in 2023; exited K-State to injury.

RB, Tahj Brooks (Sr.)

- Recorded a career-high 182 rushing yards on 24 attempts, including eight carries for 34 yards on Tech's final possession to secure the win as time expired.
- Recorded a 100-yard game for the eighth time in the last nine games. It's his 12th 100-yard game of his career.
- His 12th 100-yard game marks the fifth-most 100-yard games in a Texas Tech career behind Byron Hanspard (21), James Gray (18), Byron Morris (16) and James Hadnot (13).
- Finished with one rushing touchdown, extending his streak to seven-straight games with a rushing score. The last time a Texas Tech running back scored a rushing TD in seven-straight games was Eric Stephens between the last two games of the 2010 season and the first five of the 2011 season. The last time it was done in a single season was Taureon Henderson over the final seven games of the 2004 season.
- Entered all-time Top 10 for attempts in a career with his 24 carries, pushing his career total to 552. His total moves all the way to No. 7 all-time surpassing SaRodrick Thompson (540), Larry Issac (538), James Hadnot (532) and Donny Anderson (526), each in this game.
- Moves up to No. 7 all-time in career rushing yards now with 2,862 yards, surpassing James Hadnot (2,794).
- Moves up to No. 9 all-time in single season yardage with 1,348 yards, surpassing Byron Morris (1,279).
- Recorded third-longest rush from scrimmage of the season going for 46 yards on first-and-10 from the TTU18 in the first quarter. He owns 19 explosive rushes this season.

TE, Mason Tharp (Jr.)

- Started after missing previous five games to injury.
- Caught his third TD pass this season; sixth of his career.

WR, Drae McCray (Jr.)

- Caught his second touchdown pass this season as well as posting a season-high 55 receiving yards.
- Had one kick return for 54 yards; entered tonight's game ranked 10th in the FBS averaging 26.6 yards per return.

WR, Xavier White (Sr.)

- Finished with 96 all-purpose yards, pushing him past 2,500 career all-purpose now with 2,582.

DEFENSE

LB, Jacob Rodriguez (Jr.)

- Recorded a career-high 12 tackles; doubling his previous career-high of six set versus TCU in Tech's last home game.

DB, C.J. Baskerville (Jr.)

- Recorded his first interception as a Red Raider and first since while a member of San Diego State in the 2021 Frisco Bowl versus UTSA.
- Was second on the team in tackles with seven. In three games since moving to boundary safety, has recorded 27 tackles, one interception and one pass breakup.

LB, Ben Roberts (Rfr.)

- Finished with six tackles pushing his season total to 87. He not only leads the team in tackles in 2023, he owns the most tackles by a freshman since Dakota Allen's 87 stops in 2015.

GETTING STARTED

- Today's weather at kickoff: 63 degrees, 12 mph winds from the south and mostly cloudy skies.
- Texas Tech won the coin toss and chose to defer to the second half. UCF started the first half with the ball.
→ The Red Raiders won the toss for the fifth consecutive game
- Texas Tech wore black helmets with red jerseys and black pants against UCF.
- Today's game captains were Tony Bradford Jr., Jaylon Hutchings, Austin McNamara and Xavier White.

TODAY'S WIN...

- Extends Texas Tech's winning streak to three games - it's longest of the season.
→ The Red Raiders' streak began after their bye week starting with TCU and then at Kansas and UCF.
- Gives Texas Tech a 1-0 all-time record against UCF.
→ Today's game marked the Red Raiders' second first-time opponent of the season joining Tarleton State.
- Gives Texas Tech a 5-3 record in Big 12 games in 2023.
→ Texas Tech's 5-3 mark in Big 12 play is its best start through the first eight games of the conference schedule since 2009.
→ The Big 12's current 9-game conference schedule started in 2011.
- Gives Joey McGuire a 6-1 career record in games played in November.
- Gives Joey McGuire an 11-5 career record versus opponents that are unranked.
- Gives Joey McGuire a 9-4 career record in games played at Jones AT&T Stadium.

TEAM NOTES

- With Tech's sixth win today, it clinches a bowl appearance for the third-consecutive season and the 41st time in program history. The Red Raiders currently rank tied for 21st nationally and third in the Big 12 for all-time bowl appearances.
- Joey McGuire is now the second head coach in program history to lead the Red Raiders to bowl games in each of his first two seasons, joining the late Mike Leach, who pushed Texas Tech to a bowl game in each of his 10 seasons.
- Tech clinched a winning Big 12 record, marking the Red Raiders' first back-to-back seasons since the 2008-09 campaigns with a league record above .500.
- Joey McGuire is now the second head coach in program history to notch an above-.500 conference record in each of his first two seasons, joining Steve Sloan and the 1975-76 Red Raiders of the Southwest Conference era.
- Tech has now notched back-to-back double-digit Senior Day comeback victories. Tech trailed 14-0 and rallied to score 21 unanswered before securing a 24-23 win. The Red Raiders trailed 17-0 in its 2022 senior day game before defeating Oklahoma, 51-48, in overtime. Tech trailed by as much as 18 in the second quarter.
→ Tonight's come-from-behind win marks the 26th double-digit deficit overcome since 2000.
- McGuire is now 12-2 in two seasons when either tied or leading at halftime.
- Texas Tech's 22-game streak of converting a fourth down under McGuire was snapped tonight going 0-for-2 in its only two fourth down attempts in the first quarter.
→ With Tech going 0-for-2 on fourth downs tonight, it led to seven points for UCF. Tonight was Tech's first win under McGuire when trailing the plus/minus scale for fourth-down decisions as Texas Tech was previously 0-5 in his nearly two full seasons.
- Tech moves to 10-2 under McGuire all-time when the turnover battle is either won or tied. In Tech's current three-game win streak, the Red Raiders have either won or tied the turnover margin.
- E'Maurion Banks registered the Red Raiders' first blocked extra-point since a 2019 contest versus Kansas when Zech McPhearson blocked a kick. McPhearson, who played in last year's Super Bowl, was on the Texas Tech sideline tonight.
- UCF's nine points in the second half marked the fourth time this season in Big 12 play the Red Raiders have held an opponent to single-digit points or less over the final 30 minutes.
- Tech's one-point, 24-23 win, was its first one-point win since defeating Baylor, 24-23, on Nov. 14, 2020.

