

Texas Tech

RED RAIDER FOOTBALL

POSTGAME NOTES

GAME
13



34

TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

7-6, 5-4 Big 12

VS

CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

6-7, 4-5 Pac-12



14

Dec. 16, 2023 | 8:20 p.m. CT | Independence Stadium | Shreveport, La. | ESPN

TEXAS TECH

Record	7-6 Overall; 5-4 Big 12
Streak	W1
Head Coach	Joey McGuire
Career Record	15-11 (2nd Season)
Record vs. California	1-0
Today's attendance	33,071
Kickoff temperature	45 degrees
Length of Game	3:31

TODAY'S STARTERS

(Offense) - (LT) Ty Buchanan, (LG) Cole Spencer, (C) Dennis Wilburn, (RG) Rusty Staats, (RT) Caleb Rogers, (QB) Behren Morton, (RB) Tahj Brooks, (TE) Baylor Cupp, (WR) Drea McCray, (WR) Xavier White, (WR) Brady Boyd
(Defense) - (NT) Quincy Ledet Jr., (DT) Tony Bradford Jr., (EDGE) Charles Esters III, (LB-WILL) Jacob Rodriguez, (LB-MIKE) Ben Roberts, (OLB) Joseph Adedire, (STAR) Tyler Owens, (CB) Bralyn Lux, (S) Dadrion Taylor-Demerson, (S) C.J. Baskerville, (CB) Malik Dunlap

NOTING THE RED RAIDERS

OFFENSE

QB, Behren Morton (So.)

- Finished the season 5-1 in games he's started and finished.
- Matched his career-high for passing touchdowns with three while passing for 256 yards with a 62.8 completion percentage en route to being named the Independence Bowl Offensive Player of the Game. All three touchdowns were in the first half.

RB, Tahj Brooks (Sr.)

- Finished 2023 with 11-straight games of 90 rushing yards or better as he recorded 99 versus Cal. He added nine 100-yard games to his resume this season to give him 12 for his career.
- Finished 2023 season with 1,542 rushing yards. It is the fourth-most rushing yards in a single-season in program history.
- Scored one rushing touchdown, a 7-yard scamper in the third quarter. He scored at least one rushing TD in eight out of the last nine games of the season. He had a single-season best 10 rushing TDs in 2023 and enters 2024 one touchdown shy of entering the all-time top 10 for rushing TDs.
- Eclipsed 3,000 career rushing yards in the second quarter, becoming the seventh to do so in program history.
- Finished the season with 3,056 career rushing yards, placing him No. 7 all-time heading into 2024 season.

WR, Coy Eakin (R-Fr.)

- Caught second career TD pass, a 27-yard reception to tie the game, 7-7, with 4:19 remaining in the first quarter.
- Recorded second 100-yard game of his career, accomplished in the first half alone as he had 106 yards. Finished game with a career-high 106 yards (seven receptions). His previous 100-yard game was 102 yards versus K-State.

DEFENSE

LB, Jacob Rodriguez (Jr.)

- Caused two of the Red Raiders' four turnovers en route to being named the Independence Bowl Defensive Player of the Game. Both takeaways came in the fourth quarter.
- Forced a fumble that was recovered by Malik Dunlap.
- Recorded first career interception.
- Finished with six tackles; third-highest total on the team.

DL, Amier Washington (Fr.)

- Finished with 4.0 TFLs, which were the most by a Red Raider in a game since Jordyn Brooks posted 4.0 on Oct. 5, 2019.
- First four career tackles, were each TFLs.
- Recorded first career TFL on California's second drive, while in the red zone, resulting in a loss of five yards, which ultimately ended in zero points for the Golden Bears' drive.
- Finished with 3.0 sacks in his first game of significant action. It was the most in a single game since Steve Linton posted 3.0 earlier this season versus Baylor. Prior to Linton's three-sack game, the previous three-sack game was back in 2016.
- Forced first fumble of career on a strip-sack in the second quarter (was recovered by the offense).

LB, Ben Roberts (R-Fr.)

- Roberts added five tackles to his resume on Saturday giving him 105 for the season surpassing Donald Harris' 104 in 1987 for the most tackles by a freshman dating to 1980.

LB, Ty Matthews (Sr.)

- In his 58th and final career game, recorded his first career interception in the third quarter.
- Downed a McNamara punt at the 4-yard line in the third quarter.

GETTING STARTED

- Today's weather at kickoff: 45 degrees, 5 mph winds from the northwest and clear skies.
- Cal won the coin toss and chose to defer to the second half. Texas Tech started the first half with the ball.
- Texas Tech wore black helmets with red jerseys and red pants against Cal.
- Today's game captains were Tony Bradford Jr., Dadrion Taylor-Demerson, Austin McNamara and Xavier White.

TODAY'S WIN...

- Gives Texas Tech a 7-6 finish for the 2023 regular season.
 - The Red Raiders finish their season winning four of their final five games after a 3-5 start.
 - The Red Raiders finish above .500 for the third-straight season, marking the first time since the 2008-10 seasons.
- Gives Texas Tech wins in three consecutive bowls games; each over the last three seasons.
 - The Red Raiders entered bowl season as only one of nine teams that had won bowl games in each 2021 and 2022. The other eight teams were Air Force, Alabama, Fresno State, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, Western Kentucky and Wisconsin.
- Gives Texas Tech bowl victories in 12 of its last 16 bowl appearances (since 2002).
- Gives Joey McGuire a 2-0 record in bowl games.
 - McGuire's two bowl wins match Spike Dykes (1986-99) and DeWitt Weaver (1951-60) for the second-most bowl wins by a Texas Tech head coach trailing all-time leader Mike Leach's five wins.
- Gives Joey McGuire a 7-2 career record in games played in November or later.
- Gives Texas Tech a 2-0 all-time record against California.
 - The Red Raiders won the only other meeting against Cal, also in a bowl game, with a 45-31 victory over then-No. 4 Cal in the 2004 Holiday Bowl.
- Gives Joey McGuire an 12-5 career record versus opponents that are unranked.
- Gives the Red Raiders a 40-20-2 all-time record versus current members of the Pac-12.
 - The Red Raiders improve to 3-1 all-time versus current members of the Pac-12 in bowl games with its last win coming versus Arizona State in the 2013 Holiday Bowl.
- Gives the Red Raiders a 1-2 all-time record in the Independence Bowl following losses in 1986 and 1998.

TEAM NOTES

- Tonight's win marks the second time in program history and the first time since the 2002-04 seasons that Tech boasts bowl wins in three-consecutive seasons.
- Tonight's win makes Joey McGuire the first head coach in program history to win a bowl game in each of his first two seasons.
- Tech held California to 14 points, and shut the Golden Bears out over the second, third and fourth quarters. It was the Red Raiders' second, second half shutout of the season dating back to playing Houston on Sept. 30.
- Texas Tech improves to 5-1 this season when holding opponents under 25 points. The Red Raiders' defense held opponents to a 26.0 scoring average this season, it's lowest average since a 22.6 average in 2009. It also marks back-to-back seasons holding opponents to under 30.0 points per game, the first such stretch since the 2008-09 seasons.
- Tech won the turnover battle, 4 to 2. The Red Raiders were 6-2 this season when either leading the turnover margin or with it tied. McGuire's career record when either leading the turnover margin or with it tied improves to 10-2.
- Tech outscored Cal, 17-0, in the second quarter. The 17-point second quarter was the second-highest scoring quarter for Tech this season, trailing its 21-point second quarter versus Houston on Sept. 30.
- Texas Tech's 24-point first half was its second-highest scoring first half this season, trailing its' 35-point first half versus Houston on Sept. 30.
- Tech's defense forced Cal into going 0-for-2 on fourth down attempts and the offense manufactured one stop into a TD while the second was a missed field goal attempt. Meanwhile, the Red Raiders' offense successfully went 2-for-2 converting its fourth down attempts, each in the fourth quarter. The first conversion produced a field goal while the second came on the final drive that ended the game.

