

Texas Tech

RED RAIDER FOOTBALL

POSTGAME NOTES

GAME
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TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

8-5, 6-3 Big 12

VS

ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS

7-6, 3-5 SEC

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Dec. 27, 2024 | 6:05 p.m. CST | Liberty Stadium | Memphis, Tenn. | ESPN

TEXAS TECH

Record	8-5 Overall; 6-3 Big 12
Streak	L1
Head Coach	Joey McGuire
Career Record	23-16 (3rd Season)
Record vs. Arkansas	0-1
Today's attendance	37,764
Kickoff temperature	57 degrees
Length of Game	3:32

TODAY'S STARTERS

(Offense) - (LT) Jacob Ponton, (LG) Sterling Porcher, (C) Sheridan Wilson, (RG) Davion Carter, (RT) Caleb Rogers, (QB) Will Hammond, (RB) J'Koby Williams, (TE) Mason Tharp, (WR) Coy Eakin, (WR) Caleb Douglas, (WR/TE) Jalin Conyers
(Defense) - (DT) James Hansen, (DT) Jayden Cofield, (OLB) Terrell Tilmon, (LB-WILL) Jacob Rodriguez, (LB-MIKE) Ben Roberts, (OLB) Charles Esters III, (STAR) Brenden Jordan, (CB) Macho Stevenson, (S) Chapman Lewis, (S) C.J. Baskerville, (CB) Maurion Horn

NOTING THE RED RAIDERS

OFFENSE

QB, Will Hammond (Fr.) | 20-of-34, 280 yds., 1 TDs, 2 INT

- Made first career start - marking the first start by a true freshman since Jake Strong did on Oct. 21, 2023 at BYU.
- Hammond is the eighth true freshman in school history to start at quarterback and the second to do so in a bowl game, joining Davis Webb, who was the Offensive MVP of the 2013 Holiday Bowl victory over Arizona State.
- Hammond is the first true freshman quarterback to make his first career start in a bowl game and only the fourth freshman to start under center in a bowl
- Had single-game highs in completions (20), yards (280) and tossed second career TD pass.
- His 280 yards were the most passing yards by a true freshman in their first career start since Alan Bowman's 282 yards in 2018 versus Lamar.
- He was 9-of-17 for 178 yards (0 TD/0 INT) in the first half.

RB, J'Koby Williams (Fr.) | 15 rush, 123 yds., 1 TD/4 rec., 36 yds.

- Honored as Texas Tech's Offensive Player of the Game by the AutoZone Liberty Bowl.
- Made first career start - Oct. 11, 2018 - was the last time a true freshman running back started for Texas Tech - which was Ta'Zawn Henry versus TCU.
- Williams' 123 rushing yards were the most by a true freshman in their first career start since Justin Stockton ran for 135 versus UTEP in 2014.
- Scored on a 54-yard touchdown run, the longest of rush of the season for the freshman.
- Had single-game highs in carries (15), yards (123), receptions (4) and receiving yards (36).

TE, Jalin Conyers (Sr.) | 2 rush., 6 yds., 1 TD

- Scored his second rushing touchdown of the season and the third of his career on a 2-yard carry late in the second quarter.

WR, Caleb Douglas (Jr.) | 5 rec., 115 yds.

- Registered his fourth 100-yard game of the season; which was also his fourth 100-yard game over his last eight games,

TE, Mason Tharp (Sr.) | 1 rec., 44 yds.

- Recorded the longest reception of his career, a catch for 44 yards, in the first quarter. It surpassed a previous career-best of 28 yards, set last season versus Tarleton State.

DEFENSE

LB, Jacob Rodriguez (R-Jr.) | 9 tackles, 1.0 TFL

- Honored as Texas Tech's Defensive Player of the Game by the AutoZone Liberty Bowl.
- He finishes his redshirt junior season with a team-lead 127 tackles in the 2024 season.
- His 127 tackles mark the most in a single season by a Red Raider since Lawrence Flugence's single-season NCAA record 193 tackles during the 2002 season.

DB, C.J. Baskerville (Sr.) | 10 tackles

- Finished with a team-high 10 tackles. It marks the first time Baskerville led the team in tackles in 2024.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K, Gino Garcia (Sr.) | 1-of-1, 37 yards

- Finished 1-for-1 on field goals (37 yards) versus Arkansas.
- Finished the 2024 season 19-of-20 (95.0%). His 2024 field goal percentage sets a new program record and is the fifth time in a season a Tech kicker finished better than 90 percent.
- His 19 made field goals in 2024 rank as the fourth-most made field goals in a single season in program history.

GETTING STARTED

- Tonight's weather at kickoff: 57 degrees, 6 mph winds from the south and clear skies.
- Arkansas won the coin toss and chose to defer the kickoff. Texas Tech started the first half with the ball.
- Texas Tech wore black helmets with white jerseys and black pants versus Arkansas.
- Tonight's game captains were C.J. Baskerville, De'Braylon Carroll, Caleb Rogers and Mason Tharp.

TONIGHT'S LOSS ...

- Drops the Red Raiders overall record to 8-5.
→ Texas Tech finishes the season with eight wins, its second eight-win season under Joey McGuire in three years, and the 28th eight-win season all-time in school history.
- Snaps the Red Raiders' three-game winning streak in bowl games, which started at the 2021 Liberty Bowl.
→ Texas Tech drops to 1-1 all-time in the Liberty Bowl.
- The Red Raiders dropped to 5-9 against SEC members since joining the Big 12 in 1996.
- Drops Joey McGuire's record in bowl games to 2-1.
- The loss marks the Red Raiders' first loss in a bowl game to an unranked opponent since falling to Iowa, 19-16, in the 2001 Alamo Bowl.
- Gives Arkansas a 30-8 advantage in the all-time series. Friday's game was the first meeting in a bowl game and the first meeting at a neutral site in the 38-game series.

TEAM NOTES

- Four Red Raiders made their first career starts on Friday night.
→ Will Hammond (Fr.), J'Koby Williams (Fr.), Jacob Ponton (Fr.) and Terrell Tilmon (Jr.)
- Guided by the true freshmen tandem of Cameron Dickey (74) and J'Koby Williams (123), the Red Raiders rushed for 217 yards on Friday against Arkansas. The 217 team rushing yards mark the third-most accumulated by the Red Raiders in 2024 and was the fourth time to eclipse 200 yards rushing in a game.
- Texas Tech finished the 2024 season scoring 489 points (37.6 average). It marks the most points scored by a Red Raider football team since 2016 when Tech produced 522 points for a 43.5 average.
- The Red Raiders recorded their first safety in 11 years when Isaac Smith sacked the quarterback in the endzone early in the second quarter. The last safety occurred on Sept. 8, 2013 versus Stephen F. Austin.
- Despite trailing 24-19 at halftime, the Red Raiders owned the advantage in total offense outgaining Arkansas 346 to 341. Arkansas finished the game with the advantage, outgaining the Red Raiders in total offense 559 to 497.
→ The 559 total yards allowed were the most allowed by the Red Raiders since the season opener when Abilene Christian amassed 615 total yards in an overtime loss against Tech.
- The defense allowed the longest explosive rushing play and the longest explosive pass play, both in the first quarter. A rush for 70 yards in the first quarter, resulted in a 1-yard touchdown carry on the ensuing play. A reception for 94 yards later in the first quarter put the Razorbacks on top 21-3.
→ The Red Raiders allowed 260 total yards offense in the first quarter. 220 yards of the 260 came via three explosive plays (56 pass, 70 rush, 94 pass TD).
- The Red Raiders completed their fourth 90-yard or better scoring drive of the season during the second quarter as Hammond led an 8-play, 98-yard drive - matching the longest drive of the season having a 98-yard drive at Iowa State on Nov. 2.

