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JOEY McGUIRE
Head Coach | Third Season

Joey McGuire enters his third season as Texas Tech's head football coach where he has quickly built the Red Raiders back into a regular postseason contender with back-to-back bowl victories and an emphasis on recruiting the best athletes from the state of Texas.

The 17th head coach in program history, McGuire was named to the position on Nov. 8, 2021, by Director of Athletics Kirby Hocutt. Since then, McGuire has become the first head coach in program history to lead the Red Raiders to a bowl victory in each of his first two seasons after Texas Tech downed Ole Miss in the 2022 TaxAct Texas Bowl and then Cal in the 2023 Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl.

The Red Raiders' success under McGuire doesn't stop there. In two short seasons, Texas Tech has accomplished the following:

• McGuire is only the second head coach in program history to push the Red Raiders to a bowl appearance in each of his first two seasons, joining the late Mike Leach who did so over all of his 10 years in Lubbock.

• McGuire has pushed the Red Raiders to a 5-4 record in Big 12 play in each of his two seasons, marking Texas Tech's first winning conference mark since 2009. McGuire is only the second head coach in program history to lead the Red Raiders to an above .500 conference record in each of his first two seasons, joining the late Steve Sloan (1975-77).

• Texas Tech has combined for 15 wins in McGuire's first two seasons, the most for a head coach in that span in school history. McGuire's .577 winning percentage early in his tenure marks the highest for a Texas Tech head coach in his first two season since Steve Sloan led the Red Raiders to a 16-7 record (.696) over the 1975-76 campaigns.

• McGuire's eight-win debut in 2022 finished one victory shy for the most ever by a first-year head coach in program history as Dell Morgan previously led the Red Raiders to a 9-2 record in 1941.

• Texas Tech closed the 2022 season with a 42-25 victory over Ole Miss in the TaxAct Texas Bowl, marking its fourth-consecutive victory to close the season. The Red Raiders had not previously ended a season with four-straight wins since 1995.

• Entering the 2024 season, McGuire will be one of only two active Big 12 head coaches to have led his current school to a bowl victory in each of his first two seasons, joining Utah's Kyle Whittingham.

• McGuire is the only head coach in program history to defeat Texas and Oklahoma in the same season after the Red Raiders defeated both in overtime during his debut season in 2022.

• The Red Raiders are a combined 10-3 at home over McGuire's two seasons, turning Jones AT&T Stadium into a consistent home field advantage.

• Red Raider fans have come to expect strong finishes under McGuire as Texas Tech is a combined 6-2 in the month of November in his two seasons despite having to start three different quarterbacks each year.

THE PATH TO THE NFL

Texas Tech has had three Red Raiders hear their names called during the NFL Draft early in McGuire's tenure as rush end Tyree Wilson was picked in the first round in 2023, while defensive back Dadrion Taylor-Demerson went in the fourth round a year later followed by rush end Myles Cole in the seventh round. Texas Tech has also had more than 10 Red Raiders sign undrafted free agent contracts during McGuire's tenure.

Wilson was picked seventh overall by the Las Vegas Raiders, becoming the highest-drafted Texas Tech defensive player in program history. Wilson previously earned first team All-America honors by the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) and was a first team All-Big 12 honoree after totaling 14.0 tackles for loss and 7.0 sacks over 10 games as a senior. He matched Ring of Honor member Donny Anderson as being the second-highest drafted Red Raider in program history (all positions) and the highest in the modern era.

McGuire previously developed four NFL Draft selections during his tenure at Baylor. That list included outside linebackers Terrel Bernard in 2022 and William Bradley-King, a seventh-round selection by the Washington Football Team in 2021, as well as defensive linemen James Lynch and Bravvion Roy in 2020. Lynch went in the fourth round of the 2020 draft to the Minnesota Vikings, while Roy was taken two rounds later by the Carolina Panthers. Bernard, meanwhile, was a third-round selection by the Buffalo Bills during the 2022 NFL Draft.

AN NFL FRONT OFFICE

Under McGuire, Texas Tech's personnel department resembles an NFL front office, a unique approach in the world of college football. Texas Tech's personnel department is overseen by general manager James Blanchard, who was McGuire's first hire after accepting the Texas Tech position. Blanchard has the ability to offer any potential recruit he and his staff feel will fit at Texas Tech, allowing McGuire's coaching staff to prioritize player development.

The setup has paved the way for consecutive top-25 classes as the Red Raiders ranked as high as No. 23 each of the past two years by the likes of Rivals and On3.com. Texas Tech's 2023 class ranked as high as No. 23 nationally by Rivals, marking its highest-rated class in more than a decade. Its 2024 class, meanwhile, was the highest-rated class in the Big 12 at No. 23 overall, a testament to McGuire and his staff's ties to the state of Texas.

THE TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL HALL OF FAMER

Texas Tech's early success should come at little surprise as McGuire previously helped build a winning program at Baylor following a stellar 14-year run at Cedar Hill High School in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. McGuire, a 2020 inductee into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor and a 2022 member of the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame, created one of the most-memorable turnaround stories in the state's history during his 14 seasons leading Cedar Hill.

The Longhorns not only won at a high level under McGuire, but they transformed into one of the state's most dominant programs with its first state title in 2006 and then back-to-back state crowns in 2013 and 2014. Cedar Hill was an impressive 141-42 during McGuire's tenure, going from an unknown to a state champion in only his fourth season as head coach. The Longhorns' dynasty featured 12-consecutive playoff appearances, nine bi-district titles and seven district crowns under McGuire, including another appearance in the state title game in 2012 where Cedar Hill fell to Katy.

McGuire's turnaround of Cedar Hill quickly placed him among the state's most revered high school coaches as he was named the Texas Coach of the Year by MaxPreps, Dallas Morning News and Chevy Silverado in 2013. He also earned Coach of the Year honors for class 5A that season by the Texas Sports Writers Association (TSWA), Dave Campbell's Texas Football, the National Football Foundation Dallas chapter and the Padilla Poll. He garnered the honor again from the Padilla Poll in 2014. The Dallas Cowboys also honored him as the organization's high school Coach of the Year following Cedar Hill's first state title in 2006.

McGuire, at only the age of 31, was promoted to head coach at Cedar Hill prior to the 2003 season following six seasons as an assistant coach. Cedar Hill had not recorded a winning season in the eight years prior to his promotion, a streak he quickly ended with a 6-4 campaign in his debut. McGuire was previously an assistant coach at his alma mater, Crowley High School, during the 1995 and 1996 prior to his move to Cedar Hill.

A two-time District Coach of the Year (2005-06), McGuire coached in all but two Under Armour All-America games during his tenure and was the head coach of the 2013 Semper Fidelis All-America Bowl, two events that feature the nation's top collegiate prospects. He was also the head coach for the north team in the 2014 Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) All-Star Game.

THE PATH TO COLLEGE FOOTBALL

The back-to-back state titles provided McGuire with several opportunities to depart for the collegiate level, a move he wouldn't make until after the 2016 season when Matt Rhule contacted him shortly after his hire as the new head coach at Baylor. Needing someone with extensive ties throughout the state of Texas, Rhule hired McGuire initially as his tight ends coach. The move was perfect timing for McGuire, who had remained at Cedar Hill to coach his son, Garret, for his final two seasons.

Baylor quickly turned into a Big 12 title contender within three years of McGuire's hire as the Bears finished 7-6 in only his second season on staff in 2018 after defeating Vanderbilt in the Academy Sports + Outdoors Texas Bowl. The Bears followed with one of their best seasons in school history in 2019, opening the season with nine-straight wins en route to an appearance in the Big 12 Championship game. Oklahoma edged the Bears in overtime, sending Baylor to an appearance in the Allstate Sugar Bowl and a top-15 final ranking to close the season.

Baylor reached bowl eligibility three times with McGuire on staff and was in the midst of an eventual run to the Big 12 title and a second appearance in the Allstate Sugar Bowl when McGuire was tabbed as Texas Tech's new head coach late in the 2021 season. McGuire served as Baylor's associate head coach during each of his final three seasons as he oversaw three different position groups during his tenure:

▲ **CHAMPIONSHIP PEDIGREE:** McGuire built a high school dynasty during his 14 seasons as the Cedar Hill head coach, leading the Longhorns to three Class 6A Texas state titles in 2006, 2013 and 2014.

tight ends (2017-18), defensive ends (2019) and outside linebackers (2020-21).

Baylor built a strong reputation as one of the top defensive programs in the country during McGuire's tenure, namely in 2019 when the Bears' defense featured both Lynch and Roy up front. The defensive line was possibly Baylor's most-prolific position group that season as the Bears set a program record with 46 sacks, including 13.5 from Lynch alone. Lynch departed Baylor as the Bears' single-season and career (22) sacks record holder as he was tabbed the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year and a consensus All-American.

PERSONAL

Following his success helping rebuild the Baylor program, Texas Tech was an ideal fit for McGuire, whose daughter, Raegan, was a recent graduate of the university. McGuire had visited Lubbock numerous times previously either to see his daughter or earlier in life when several life-long friends attended the university.

McGuire likes to say he would have attended Texas Tech, himself, had he not met his wife, Debbie. He eventually earned his bachelor's degree in kinesiology from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1995. The couple has been highly-involved in the Lubbock community since their arrival, volunteering for numerous charitable organizations, including Covenant Children's Hospital and through their Women Behind the Brand clinic each August.

The couple's two children are also highly successful in their own walks of life as Garret is in his second season as the wide receivers coach at the University of Nebraska. Garret McGuire, at only 24 years of age, was the youngest FBS assistant coach in the nation entering the 2023 season as he previously served two seasons under Rhule as an offensive assistant with the NFL's Carolina Panthers. Prior to beginning his coaching career, Garret was a quarterback and special teams player at Baylor, playing in six games from 2017-20 where he was a two-time Academic All-Big 12 first team honoree.

Raegan, meanwhile, is a fashion designer for AMUR in New York City. Her designs have been worn by several high-profile figures, including Natalie Biden, the granddaughter to President Joe Biden, as well as Taylor Swift on her spring 2023 Eras Tour. Raegan and her husband, Joe Tocco, were married in May 2023.

▲ **THE McGUIRE FAMILY (left to right):** Garret, Joey, Debbie and Raegan McGuire Tocco and her husband, Joe Tocco. The Toccos were married in May 2023.

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MCGUIRE FILE

Hometown	Crowley, Texas
Education	Texas-Arlington '95 (Kinesiology)
Wife	Debbie
Children	Daughter: Raegan (husband Joe); Son: Garret

COACHING HISTORY

2022-present	Texas Tech Head Coach
2020-21	Baylor Associate Head Coach (Outside Linebackers)
2019	Baylor Associate Head Coach (Defensive Ends)
2017-18	Baylor Assistant Coach (Tight Ends)
2003-16	Cedar Hill High School Head Coach
1997-02	Cedar Hill High School Assistant Coach
1995-96	Crowley High School Assistant Coach

BOWL GAMES (5)

2023	Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl
2022	TaxAct Texas Bowl
2021	Allstate Sugar Bowl*
2019	Allstate Sugar Bowl
2018	Academy Sports + Outdoors Texas Bowl

bowl took place after he had already accepted the Texas Tech position.

MCGUIRE-ISMS

Listen to one Joey McGuire press conference and you'll likely be wondering: "what does that mean?" Well, here's a cheat sheet of the major terms the Red Raiders utilize on a day-to-day basis.

The Brand: The core tenant of the Texas Tech football program under McGuire revolves around The Brand, which stands for his desire that the Red Raiders be the "toughest, hardest-working, most-competitive team in the country." On his final interview for the Texas Tech position, McGuire described his vision for the Red Raider program using The Brand, which President Lawrence Schovanec said "describes West Texas."

What's Next!: No matter if something good or bad happens on the field, McGuire and his staff stress a "What's Next!" mentality, emphasizing that the focus should be on the next play or rep.

Take Three: The term "Take Three" is one many around the Red Raider football program have heard almost daily since McGuire's hiring. The phrase is a key element of Texas Tech's weekly Plan to Win document, highlighting the defensive goal of creating three takeaways per game. McGuire, who has "TAKE3" on the license plate on one of his vehicles, started the phrase early in his tenure at Cedar Hill High School.

Analytics (and fourth downs): McGuire is not shy to admit the Red Raiders readily utilize analytics and measurable traits, not only in identifying future Red Raiders but also for in-game decisions. Texas Tech is a combined 57-for-89 on fourth-down attempts over this two seasons as the Red Raiders trail only Baylor for the most attempts over that span.

Unofficial Home of the THSCA: There isn't a power-five football program in the state of Texas with better ties to its high school coaches than at Texas Tech as McGuire has hired numerous members to his coaching staff who previously worked at the prep level. McGuire, himself, is already a legend at the prep level as a member of the THSCA Hall of Honor and the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame.

▲ **FROM CEDAR HILL TO D-1:** Over his 20 seasons at Cedar Hill, McGuire mentored an impressive 98 players who ultimately signed with NCAA Division-I programs as the Longhorns regularly boasted several of the nation's top recruits.

▲ **ALL ABOUT THE PLAYERS:** McGuire is known as a players' coach and culture builder who, in fact, has now officiated two weddings for former players with the most recent being James Lockhart during the summer of 2023.

▲ **PATH TO THE NFL:** In his short time at the college level, McGuire has mentored seven future NFL selections, including one first round selection in 2023 seventh overall pick Tyree Wilson. This number doesn't include the numerous Cedar Hill standouts under McGuire who later moved to the NFL after their college careers.

▲ **FAMILY PROFESSION:** Joey McGuire isn't the only coach now in his family as his son Garret enters his second season as the wide receivers coach at the University of Nebraska. Garret, who played for his father at both Cedar Hill and Baylor, was previously an offensive assistant with the Carolina Panthers.

YEAR-BY-YEAR RESULTS UNDER MCGUIRE

2022
Overall: 8-5 | Big 12: 5-4 | TaxAct Texas Bowl

S3	Murray State	W	63	10	58,823
S10	Houston (25)	W (2OT)	33	30	56,271
S17	at N.C. State (12)	L	14	27	56,919
S24	•Texas (19)	W (OT)	37	34	60,975
O1	•at Kansas State (25)	L	28	37	50,782
O8	•at Oklahoma State (7)	L	31	41	55,509
O22	•West Virginia	W	48	10	56,530
O29	•Baylor	L	17	45	60,705
N5	•at TCU (7)	L	24	34	44,760
N12	•Kansas	W	43	28	55,613
N19	•at Iowa State	W	14	10	52,676
N26	•Oklahoma	W (OT)	51	48	51,126
D28	vs. Ole Miss	W	42	25	53,251

2023
Overall: 7-6 | Big 12: 5-4 | Independence Bowl

S2	at Wyoming	L (2OT)	33	35	26,450
S9	Oregon (13)	L	30	38	56,200
S16	Tarleton State	W	41	3	56,200
S23	•at West Virginia	L	13	20	50,071
S30	•Houston	W	49	28	53,308
O7	•at Baylor	W	39	14	44,620
O14	•Kansas State	L	21	38	56,200
O21	•at BYU	L	14	27	63,523
N2	•TCU	W	35	28	51,185
N11	•at Kansas (16)	W	16	13	47,233
N18	•UCF	W	24	23	53,851
N24	•at Texas (7)	L	7	57	102,452
D16	vs. California	W	34	14	33,071

KEY: • Conference Game

RECORD AGAINST OPPONENTS

OPPONENT	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
Abilene Christian	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**
Arizona	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**
Arizona State	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**
Baylor	**1-1**	**0-1**	**1-0**	**0-0**
BYU	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0
California	1-0	0-0	0-0	1-0
Cincinnati	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**
Colorado	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**
Houston	2-0	2-0	0-0	0-0
Iowa State	**1-0**	**0-0**	**1-0**	**0-0**
Kansas	2-0	1-0	1-0	0-0
Kansas State	0-2	0-1	0-1	0-0
Murray State	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
N.C. State	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0
North Texas	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**
Oklahoma	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Oklahoma State	**0-1**	**0-0**	**0-1**	**0-0**
Ole Miss	1-0	0-0	0-0	1-0
Oregon	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0
Tarleton State	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
TCU	**1-1**	**1-0**	**0-1**	**0-0**
Texas	1-1	1-0	0-1	0-0
UCF	1-0	1-0	0-0	0-0
Washington State	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**	**0-0**
West Virginia	**1-1**	**1-0**	**0-1**	**0-0**
Wyoming	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0

BOLD indicates 2024 opponent.

RECORD BREAKDOWN

	2023	Big 12	McGuire Era
Overall	7-6	5-4	15-11
at Jones AT&T Stadium	4-2	3-1	10-3
in Away Games	2-4	2-3	3-8
in Neutral Site Games	1-0	0-0	2-0
Day Games	3-1	3-1	6-4
Night Games (6 p.m. start or later)	4-5	2-3	9-7
vs. Top 25 teams	1-2	1-1	3-6
vs. Top 10 teams	0-1	0-1	0-3
vs. Unranked Teams	6-4	4-3	12-5
Scoring first	4-3	3-1	10-4
Opponents score first	3-3	2-3	5-7
Leading at halftime	6-1	4-0	12-2
Trailing at halftime	0-5	0-4	2-9
Tied at halftime	1-0	1-0	1-0
Leading after third quarter	7-1	5-0	14-2
Trailing after third quarter	0-4	0-4	1-7
Tied after third quarter	0-1	0-0	0-2
Overtime games	0-1	0-0	3-1
Scoring less than 20 points	1-3	1-3	2-5
Scoring 20-29 points	1-1	1-1	1-3
Scoring 30-39 points	3-2	2-0	5-3
Scoring 40-49 points	2-0	1-0	5-0
Scoring 50+ points	0-0	0-0	2-0
Allowing less than 20 points	3-0	2-0	6-0
Allowing 20-29 points	3-2	3-2	5-3
Allowing 30-39 points	0-3	0-1	2-5
Allowing 40+ points	0-1	0-1	1-3
Rushing for less than 100 yards	0-1	0-0	0-2
Rushing for 100-199 yards	5-5	4-4	10-9
Rushing for 200+ yards	2-0	1-0	5-0
Passing for less than 300 yards	7-5	5-4	10-8
Passing for 300-399 yards	0-1	0-0	3-3
Passing for 400+ yards	0-0	0-0	2-0
Totaling less than 300 yards of total offense	0-1	0-1	1-1
Totaling 300-399 yards of total offense	3-2	2-2	3-5
Totaling 400-499 yards of total offense	4-3	3-1	7-4
Totaling 500-599 yards of total offense	0-0	0-0	3-1
Totaling 600+ yards total offense	0-0	0-0	1-0
Allowing less than 100 yards rushing	3-0	2-0	6-0
Allowing 100-199 yards rushing	2-4	1-2	5-6
Allowing 200+ yds rushing	2-2	2-2	4-5
Allowing less than 200 yards passing	2-4	1-3	2-7
Allowing 200-299 yards passing	2-1	1-1	8-3
Allowing 300-399 yards passing	3-1	3-0	4-1
Allowing 400+ yards passing	0-0	0-0	1-0
Allowing less than 300 yards total offense	0-2	0-2	2-3
Allowing 300-399 yards total offense	4-1	2-0	5-1
Allowing 400-499 yards total offense	3-2	3-1	5-6
Allowing 500+ yards of total offense	0-1	0-1	3-1
Leading turnover margin	3-2	1-1	7-2
Trailing turnover margin	1-4	1-3	5-9
Tied in turnover margin	3-0	3-0	3-0
Having 0 takeaways	1-3	1-2	3-5
Having 1 takeaway	3-1	3-1	4-4
Having 2 takeaways	1-2	1-1	4-2
Having 3 or more takeaways	2-0	0-0	4-0
Having 0 turnovers	2-1	2-1	5-1
Having 1 turnover	3-1	2-0	5-3
Having 2 turnovers	2-0	1-0	3-0
Having 3 or more turnovers	0-4	0-3	2-7
Leading in time of possession	4-1	3-1	10-3
When trailing in time of possession	3-5	2-3	5-8

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KENNY PERRY

Associate Head Coach | Running Backs | Special Teams Coordinator | Third Season

No stranger to the state of Texas, Kenny Perry became one of the first hires to Joey McGuire's charter staff at Texas Tech when he joined the Red Raiders as associate head coach shortly after the 2021 season. In his role, Perry oversees the Red Raider special teams and running backs.

Perry brings a similar background as McGuire as both were successful head coaches in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex before joining the collegiate ranks. He boasts more than 20 years of coaching experience, including 14 as a high school head coach and then more than a decade at the college level with stops at TCU, Kansas, SMU and now Texas Tech.

In only two short seasons, Perry has transformed Texas Tech's special teams into one of the most-consistent units in the country behind punter Austin McNamara, a pair of kickers in Trey Wolff and Gino Garcia as well as a game-changing returner in Drae McCray. That success – a key element in Texas Tech's weekly Plan to Win document – has pushed the Red Raiders to back-to-back bowl victories and a winning Big 12 record in each of Perry's two seasons.

Texas Tech ranked inside the top 20 of four special teams statistical categories in 2023 alone, finishing sixth in punt return average (19.5), sixth in kick return average (25.5), 10th in blocked kicks (3) and 19th for net punting (41.5). The Red Raiders previously ranked ninth in 2022 for kick return defense and inside the top 25 for both blocked kicks and kick return average.

McNamara ended his career as the Red Raiders' punter with a 45.91 career average, the highest in Texas Tech and Big 12 Conference history. His average ranked 10th in NCAA FBS history among punters with at least 150 career punts as McNamara also matched the FBS record by averaging at least 40.0 yards per attempt over 37 career games (minimum of four punts each game to qualify). McNamara averaged 46.3 yards per punt during his final season, marking his fifth mark that ranked in the top 10 in school history.

McNamara was tabbed the Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Year following the 2023 season, marking the first time a Red Raider has garnered the award. McNamara, a semifinalist for the Ray Guy Award, was also named to the All-Big 12 first team, making him the first Red Raider in program history to be recognized on the first team three time in a career. He later signed a free agent agreement with the Cincinnati Bengals organization where he is expected to compete for the punter position leading into the 2025 NFL season.

In addition to McNamara, Perry has developed two consistent kickers during his tenure in Trey Wolff and Gino Garcia. Wolff reemerged as Texas Tech's primary field goal kicker during Perry's first season in 2022, finding the uprights on 21 of his 25 attempts, which ranked second all-time in single-season school history. Wolff developed into one of the most reliable kickers in college football, especially in key moments, as he had nine field goals that came with under a minute remaining in either the second or fourth quarters or in overtime. He had two game-winning kicks on the season, sending the Red Raiders to memorable come-from-behind victories over both Texas and Oklahoma for the first time in program history.

Garcia, like Wolff, was also an honorable mention All-Big selection a year later after he connected on 16-of-22 attempts, including 9-of-10 during Big 12 play. Garcia became the first Red Raider in program history to connect on three field goals of at least 50 yards or longer in a season thanks to a 55-yarder versus TCU, a 54-yarder against Wyoming and a 51-yarder in the win over UCF. The success of both kickers has come as long snapper Jackson Knotts has combined for no failed snaps throughout his career.

All this is not to mention Perry's work as Texas Tech's running backs coach, either.

In only his first season, Perry mentored one of the deepest running back rooms in the country as Tahj Brooks and SaRodorick Thompson combined for 1,375 yards and 14 touchdowns to become only the fourth Red Raider duo in the Big 12 era to both rush for at least 600 yards in a season. Behind a steady running attack, Texas Tech ranked in the top 30 nationally for total offense, scoring offense as well as rushing touchdowns en route to an 8-5 season and a victory in the TaxAct Texas Bowl.

Brooks will enter the 2024 season chasing Byron Hanspard's career rushing mark after a stellar 2023 campaign where he was the nation's fourth-leading rusher. The Red Raiders relied heavily on Brooks, who rushed for 1,538 yards and 10 touchdowns on the ground en route to earning All-Big 12 first team honors. Brooks became just the fifth Red Raider to rush for 1,500 yards in a season and the first to

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do so since Ricky Williams in 1998. Brooks needs 1,167 yards this season to match Hanspard's career rushing record that was set after his historic 1996 campaign where he won the Doak Walker Award.

Perry arrived at Texas Tech after spending the 2020-21 seasons at SMU where he was a special teams quality control analyst his first year before being promoted to special teams coordinator for the 2021 campaign. SMU was a combined 15-7 during Perry's two years on staff, which included a pair of bowl selections.

SMU, similarly, boasted one of the top special teams units in the country during the 2021 campaign as the Mustangs rank eighth nationally for both kickoff returns (27.3 yards per return) and tied for 10th for total blocked kicks after getting their hands on four as part of an eight-win season. The Mustangs were able to create several explosive plays in the return game thanks to Bryan Massey, who ranked second in the FBS for kick return average (34.3) en route to earning All-AAC second team honors.

Massey took two kickoffs all the way to the end zone as a sophomore alone as he matched the SMU single-season and career records, while also ranking tied for second in the FBS. His 686 total kickoff return yardage, meanwhile, finished 12th nationally and was the 11th-highest total in SMU history to cap a breakout season.

SMU's special teams also featured one of the top kickers in the country during Perry's tenure in Chris Naggar, who was the American Athletic Conference Special Teams Player of the Year in 2020 as well as a Lou Groza Award semifinalist. Naggar connected on 17 of his 21 field goal attempts that season and 43-of-46 PATs as he ranked 19th in the FBS and led the AAC with 94 total points. Nagger closed the season one field goal shy of the SMU single-season record as he hit game-winning field goals against No. 24 Memphis and Tulane during the 2020 campaign alone.

Perry made his way to SMU following a stint as the special teams coordinator for the Dallas Renegades during the XFL's lone 2020 season and then four seasons at Big 12 counterpart Kansas. Perry joined the Kansas staff as co-defensive coordinator and cornerbacks coach in 2015, a role he remained in for two seasons before transitioning to special teams and recruiting coordinator for the 2017-18 campaigns.

Kansas was Perry's second Big 12 position as he started his collegiate career as the Director of High School Relations and Recruiting at TCU in 2013. Perry moved to an on-the-field role the following season, working with the TCU cornerbacks as the Horned Frogs finished 12-1 overall. TCU claimed a share of the Big 12 title that season and defeated No. 9 Ole Miss in the Peach Bowl behind a defense that featured two of Perry's standouts in second team Freshman All-American Ranthony Texada and second team All-Big 12 honoree Kevin White.

TCU landed Perry after he built a reputation as one of the top high school coaches in the state of Texas with successful runs at Sam Houston (2000-03), Haltom City (2004-05) and Arlington Bowie (2006-12). Perry compiled a 67-22 record during his seven seasons at Bowie alone, leading the Vols to the Class 5A playoffs each year. He was named the District Coach of the Year three times during his tenure and was tabbed the Dallas Morning News Coach of the Year in 2007.

Most importantly, Perry was highly-regarded among his peers as he was selected to the Board of Directors for the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) during his time at Bowie. He is also a past director of the North Texas High School Football Association.

Perry was a four-year letterwinner (1988-91) as a defensive back at the University of Houston before earning his degree in 1993. Perry was a cornerback his first two seasons as a Cougar before moving to safety his final two years. He also served as a graduate assistant for his alma mater from 1992-94, working with the special teams and defensive backs.

KENNY PERRY AT A GLANCE

Birthdate: April 3
Hometown: Arlington, Texas
Education: Houston, 1993 (Education)
Family: Son - Keaton; Daughter - Alexa

COACHING HISTORY:
2022-present – Texas Tech Assoc. Head Coach (Special Teams Coord./RBs)
2021 – SMU Assistant Coach (Special Teams Coordinator)
2020 – SMU Special Teams Quality Control Analyst
2020 – Dallas Renegades Special Teams Coordinator (XFL)
2017-18 – Kansas Assistant Coach (Special Teams Coord./Recruiting Coord.)
2015-16 – Kansas Co-Defensive Coordinator (Cornerbacks)
2014 – TCU Assistant Coach (Cornerbacks)
2013 – TCU Director of High School Relations
2006-12 – Arlington Bowie Head Coach
2004-05 – Haltom City High School Head Coach
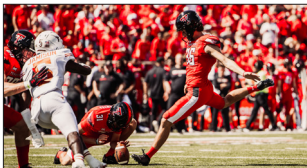2000-03 – Sam Houston High School Head Coach
1992-94 – Houston Graduate Assistant (Special Teams/Defensive Backs)

BOWL GAMES AS A COACH (5): 2023 Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl (Texas Tech); 2022 TaxAct Texas Bowl (Texas Tech); 2021 Fenway Bowl (SMU); 2020 Frisco Bowl (SMU); 2014 Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (TCU).

▲ **THSCA STRONG:** Kenny Perry, like many others on the Texas Tech staff, served as a head coach at the prep level for 14 years before moving to the college ranks.

NOTABLE RED RAIDERS UNDER KENNY PERRY

TREY WOLFF, K
Wolff put together the best season of his career under Perry as he found the uprights on 21-of-25 attempts during the 2022 campaign. Wolff closed the season ranked second all-time in Texas Tech single-season history for successful field goals. He was responsible for the game-winning kick in two memorable overtime victories over Texas and Oklahoma that season, which marked the first time Tech had topped both schools in the same season.

AUSTIN MCNAMARA, P
McNamara closed his Red Raider career as the best punter in school history thanks to a 45.91 average that was easily the highest not only at Texas Tech but also in the Big 12 Conference record book. McNamara, who later signed as an undrafted free agent with the Cincinnati Bengals, was tabbed the Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Year as a senior in 2023 after averaging an impressive 48.2 yards per punt. His career average ranked 10th all-time in NCAA FBS history.

TAHJ BROOKS, RB
Brooks became only the fifth Red Raider in program history to rush for 1,500 yards in a season in 2023. Brooks, who will return for one final season of eligibility under Perry this season, totaled 1,538 yards and 10 touchdowns on the ground, earning All-Big 12 first team honors in the process. He will enter his final season as a Red Raider chasing Byron Hanspard's career rushing record as he currently ranks seventh all-time with 3,052 career rushing yards.

COACHING STAFF

TIM DERUYTER

Defensive Coordinator | Third Season

Tim DeRuyter, one of the top defensive minds in college football and former head coach, enters his third season as Texas Tech's defensive coordinator.

The 2024 season will mark the 23rd-consecutive season DeRuyter has served as either a defensive coordinator or a head coach following previous stops leading successful defenses at California (2017-20) and Oregon (2021) before joining Joey McGuire's charter staff at Texas Tech. Prior to that, he was the head coach at Fresno State for four-plus seasons, leading the Bulldogs to two Mountain West Conference titles. DeRuyter, a 2018 semifinalist for the Broyles Award given to the nation's top assistant coach, has coached in 20 bowl games over his career and been part of six conference championship teams.

DeRuyter's experience building strong, aggressive defenses has paid dividends in his first two seasons as the Red Raiders have surrendered less than 30.0 points per game in consecutive years for the first time since the 2008-09 campaigns. Texas Tech is coming off one of its best seasons in recent memory as the Red Raiders allowed only 26.0 points per game in 2023 – their lowest average since 2009 – en route to their second-consecutive season with a winning Big 12 record.

The Red Raiders finished 8-5 overall in his debut season in 2022 thanks to four-consecutive victories to close the season, including a strong defensive performance to top Ole Miss in the TaxAct Texas Bowl. It marked the first time since 1995 the Red Raiders had ended a season on a four-game winning streak, which also helped Texas Tech record its most Big 12 victories in a year since 2009. The Red Raiders utilized another strong end-of-season finish to advance to the Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl this past season, topping Cal after shutting out the Golden Bears over the final three quarters.

Under DeRuyter, the Red Raiders quickly adopted a "put out the fire" mentality through takeaways as well as red zone and fourth down stops. Texas Tech was, in particular, strong in those final two areas during the 2022 season, leading the Big 12 in both fourth down and red zone defense, while also ranking eighth and ninth in the two categories nationally, respectively. Additionally, the Red Raiders were among the top teams in the country in limiting opponents to only a field goal as Texas Tech led all power-five schools and ranked fourth in the FBS for red zone conversions that were the result of a field goal.

Part of Texas Tech's early success defensively stemmed from the play of Tyree Wilson, who flourished in DeRuyter's scheme, moving to the outside linebacker and rush end position that has consistently produced future NFL draft picks. Wilson put together his best season as a Red Raider under DeRuyter in 2022 as he totaled a career-best 61 tackles, including 14.0 behind the line of scrimmage and 7.0 sacks, despite missing the final four games due to injury.

Wilson's ability to impact opposing offenses earned him first team All-America honors by the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA), making him the 32nd Red Raider all-time to be named to the first team and the first defensive end to do so since Montae Reager in 1998. Wilson, also an All-Big 12 first team selection, was tabbed a first team All-American by *USA Today* and *The Athletic*.

Wilson became the third different rush end under DeRuyter to hear his name called in the first 10 picks of the NFL Draft that next spring as the Las Vegas Raiders selected him seventh overall, making him the highest-drafted Red Raider defensive player in program history. Wilson's selection tied for the second-highest drafted player in school history and is the highest pick in the modern era. Wilson was the fifth Red Raider all-time to go in the top 10 picks, joining the likes of Dave Parks (No. 1 overall, 1964), Donny Anderson (No. 7 overall, 1965), Michael Crabtree (No. 10 overall, 2009) and Patrick Mahomes II (No. 10 overall, 2017). All four of those individuals are already inductees into the Texas Tech Ring of Honors.

Wilson is one of 19 players to be drafted during DeRuyter's storied career, which includes two other top-10 selections in NFL great Von Miller at Texas A&M and Kayvon Thibodeaux at Oregon as well as a pair of second rounders in quarterback Derek Carr and wide receiver Davante Adams during his tenure at Fresno State. DeRuyter added two new names to his NFL pupils following the 2023 season as defensive back Dadrion Taylor-Demerson was selected in the fourth round by the Arizona Cardinals, while edge end Myles Cole was picked in the seventh round by the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Oregon closed DeRuyter's lone season on staff ranked No. 21/22 in the final polls after compiling a 10-4 record, which featured appearances in the Pac-12 Championship and the Valero Alamo Bowl. The Ducks boasted one of the nation's most opportunistic defenses in 2021 as Oregon closed the year ranked fifth in the FBS with 17 interceptions and 26th nationally with 22 total takeaways.

DeRuyter's unit featured two of the nation's top players in Thibodeaux and safety Verone McKinley III. Thibodeaux, who became the first Oregon defensive standout to earn unanimous first team All-American accolades. He was a finalist for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy and Chuck Bednarik Award and was later selected with the fifth overall pick in the 2022 NFL Draft by the New York Giants, marking the second time in Oregon history a defensive player has been chosen in the top five.

McKinley, meanwhile, was a consensus All-American after sharing the FBS lead with six interceptions from his second spot in the Oregon defense. McKinley combined with Thibodeau to give Oregon its first pair of consensus All-Americans since 2014 and only its third tandem in program history. McKinley was also a finalist for the Jim Thorpe Award, becoming only the second Oregon defensive back to be recognized as a consensus All-American and be named a finalist for the award.

DeRuyter's success at Oregon followed four successful seasons at Cal where he took a defense that allowed 42.6 points per game in the season prior to his arrival and immediately cut that in half by his second year. Cal ranked 22nd nationally in 2018 for scoring defense and No. 33 in 2019 after surrendering 20.4 and 21.9 points per game. The Golden Bears followed that by only giving up 26.5 points per game during his final season in 2020.

Cal held 20 of its last 24 opponents under DeRuyter to 24 points or less en route to a pair of postseason appearances at the 2018 Cheez-It Bowl and the 2019 Redbox Bowl. It marked the first time Cal had been to bowls in consecutive seasons

since the 2008-09 campaigns. DeRuyter had 20 of his players earn All-Pac-12 honors during his tenure with five Golden Bears ultimately hearing their name called during the NFL Draft.

Evan Weaver was a highlight of DeRuyter's defenses at Cal as the linebacker collected consensus first team All-America honors in 2019 after leading the country with a school record 182 tackles. Weaver, a finalist for the Butkus and Lombardi Awards, was tabbed the Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year that season prior to being selected in the sixth round of the 2020 NFL Draft by the Arizona Cardinals. He was one of three Golden Bears to hear his name called in the 2020 draft and one of five Cal defensive standouts to head to the league during DeRuyter's tenure.

Weaver was one of two All-Americans to star at Cal under DeRuyter as fellow linebacker Jordan Kunaszyk garnered second team recognition from Sports Illustrated just a year earlier after finishing with a team-high 148 tackles. Kunaszyk was also a first team All-Pac 12 honoree that season, one of an impressive 130 All-Conference selections to play under DeRuyter during his three decades of experience at the collegiate level. DeRuyter moved back to his roots as a defensive coordinator following four-plus seasons at Fresno State where he compiled a 30-30 overall record. He led the Bulldogs to back-to-back Mountain West Conference titles in 2012 and 2013, marking Fresno State's first conference crown since the 1999 season. It was the first time the Bulldogs had claimed consecutive conference championships since the 1992 and 1993 campaigns.

His work with the Bulldogs was impressive early as he took over a 4-9 team from the season before and improved Fresno State to 20-6 overall and 14-2 in Mountain West play over a two-year stretch. Fresno State closed the 2013 season – his second in charge of the program – at 11-2 overall, matching the school record for most wins in a season. The Bulldogs boasted one of the top quarterbacks in college football under DeRuyter in Carr, who earned All-America honors in 2012 and 2013 and was named the MWC Offensive Player of the Year following those two seasons. He and Adams were two of six Bulldogs selected in the NFL Draft under DeRuyter as they were second round picks in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

Fresno State tabbed DeRuyter as its head coach following a pair of successful seasons as the defensive coordinator and assistant head coach at Texas A&M. The Aggies were a combined 16-10 in those two seasons with appearances in the Cotton Bowl (2010) and the Meineke Car Care Bowl (2011). DeRuyter was tabbed the interim head coach for Texas A&M's win over Northwestern in the Meineke Car Care Bowl.

Miller flourished under DeRuyter's direction with the Aggies, claiming the prestigious Butkus Award in 2010 as the nation's top linebacker. Miller garnered first team All-America honors for the second time in his career that season before eventually being selected No. 2 overall the next spring by the Denver Broncos during the 2011 NFL Draft.

Even with the departure of Miller the next season, the Aggies featured one of the nation's best front sevens after leading the country with 51 sacks (3.92 per game). Texas A&M also ranked third in the FBS with 8.0 tackles for loss per game as part of a defense that was 12th nationally in rushing defense, giving up only 101.9 yards per game.

Texas A&M was one of eight stops as a defensive coordinator for DeRuyter, who has also served in a similar role at Air Force (2007-09), Nevada (2005-06), Ohio (1995-98, 2002-04) and Navy (1999-00). DeRuyter has made three stops as a coach at the Air Force Academy, his alma mater, as he began his career as a grad-

uate assistant under College Football Hall of Fame head coach Fisher DeBerry. He returned as a defensive assistant from 1989-92 while completing his seven-plus years of active military duty following graduation from the academy.

DeRuyter earned his bachelor's degree in management from the Air Force Academy in 1985 and added a MBA in market strategy from Regis University in 1992. DeRuyter, a four-year letterwinner for the Falcons prior to earning his degree, spent two years in private business before returning to coaching in 1994.

DeRuyter and his wife, Kara, have a son, Jake, and a daughter, Christina, graduates of Air Force and A&M, respectively. Christina DeRuyter is a former Texas Tech staff member, herself, as she was the Director of On-Campus Recruiting from 2019-20. She currently serves in the same capacity at Michigan.

TIM DERUYTER AT A GLANCE

Birthdate: Jan. 3
Hometown: Long Beach, Calif.
Education: Air Force Academy, 1985 (Management); Regis University, 1992 (MBA in Market Strategy)
Family: Wife - Kara; Son - Jake; Daughter - Christina

COACHING HISTORY

2022-present – Texas Tech Defensive Coordinator
2021 – Oregon Defensive Coordinator (Outside Linebackers)
2020 – Cal Co-Defensive Coordinator/Assoc. Head Coach (Outside Linebackers)
2018-19 – Cal Defensive Coordinator (Outside Linebackers)
2017 – Cal Defensive Coordinator (Inside Linebackers)
2012-16 – Fresno State Head Coach
2010-11 – Texas A&M Defensive Coordinator/Assistant Head Coach
2008-09 – Air Force Defensive Coordinator/Assistant Head Coach
2007 – Air Force Defensive Coordinator (Safeties)
2005-06 – Nevada Co-Defensive Coordinator (Safeties)
2002-04 – Ohio Defensive Coordinator (Defensive Backs)
2001 – Navy Assistant Coach (Defensive Backs)
1999-00 – Navy Defensive Coordinator
1995-98 – Ohio Defensive Coordinator (Defensive Backs)
1991-92 – Air Force Secondary Assistant
1990 – Air Force Outside Linebackers Assistant
1989 – Air Force Inside Linebackers Assistant
1985 – Air Force Defensive Graduate Assistant

BOWL GAMES AS A COACH (20): 2023 Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl (Texas Tech); 2022 TaxAct Texas Bowl (Texas Tech); 2021 Alamo Bowl (Oregon); 2019 Redbox Bowl (Cal); 2018 Cheez-It Bowl (Cal); 2014 Hawaii Bowl (Fresno State); 2013 Las Vegas Bowl (Fresno State); 2012 Hawaii Bowl (Fresno State); 2011 Meineke Car Care Bowl (Texas A&M Interim Head Coach); 2010 Cotton Bowl (Texas A&M); 2009 Armed Forces Bowl (Air Force); 2008 Armed Forces Bowl (Air Force); 2007 Armed Forces Bowl (Air Force); 2006 MPC Computers Bowl (Nevada); 2005 Hawaii Bowl (Nevada); 1992 Liberty Bowl (Air Force); 1991 Liberty Bowl (Air Force); 1990 Liberty Bowl (Air Force); 1989 Liberty Bowl (Air Force); 1985 Bluebonnet Bowl (Air Force)

NOTABLE NFL DRAFT PICKS UNDER DERUYTER

VON MILLER, TEXAS A&M
Miller flourished under DeRuyter's direction during his time at Texas A&M, claiming the prestigious Butkus Award in 2010 as the nation's top linebacker. Miller garnered first team All-America honors for the second time in his career that season before eventually being selected No. 2 overall the next spring by the Denver Broncos during the 2011 NFL Draft. He is entering his 13th NFL season with the Buffalo Bills.

KAYVON THIBODEAUX, OREGON
Thibodeaux, who became the first Oregon defensive standout to earn unanimous first team All-American accolades. He was a finalist for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy and Chuck Bednarik Award in 2021 and was later selected with the fifth overall pick in the 2022 NFL Draft by the New York Giants, marking only the second time in Oregon history a defensive player has been chosen in the top five.

TYREE WILSON, TEXAS TECH
Wilson was selected seventh overall by the Las Vegas Raiders in the 2023 NFL Draft after earning first team All-America honors during his final season as a Red Raider. Wilson, who thrived as a rush end in DeRuyter's defensive scheme, became the highest-drafted defensive player in school history and the fifth Red Raider all-time to be selected in the top-10 picks overall.

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ZACH KITTLEY

Offensive Coordinator | Quarterbacks Coach | Third Season

Zach Kittley, the architect behind one of the nation's top offenses at both Houston Baptist and Western Kentucky as well as now with the Red Raiders, enters his third season on the Texas Tech staff as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

Known as one of the top quarterback developers in college football, Kittley returned Texas Tech to its high-scoring ways during his debut season as the Red Raiders averaged 34.2 points per game en route to impressive 8-5 record that included a win in the TaxAct Texas Bowl over Ole Miss. The Red Raiders led the Big 12 and ranked ninth nationally in passing offense in 2022, averaging 302.0 yards per game through the air as part of a unit that was in the top-25 nationally and second in the Big 12 for total offense.

Kittley earned his reputation as a quarterback developer in his debut season as the Texas Tech offense managed to compile consistent numbers despite numerous injuries behind center. Texas Tech utilized three different starters at quarterback, all of which threw for at least 1,000 yards on the season. Texas Tech was only the second FBS program since 1996 to have three different quarterbacks throw for at least 1,000 yards in a season, joining Oklahoma State from the 2012 campaign.

The Red Raiders were forced to utilize three different starting quarterbacks again a year later in what Kittley describes as his "biggest season of growth as a play-caller." With significant injuries under center, Kittley turned to the ground game in Tahj Brooks, who became only the fifth Red Raider in program history to rush for at least 1,500 yards in a season. Brooks, a first team All-Big 12 first team honoree, ranked fourth in the nation in rushing yards to push the Red Raiders to another 5-4 mark in Big 12 play and a victory in the Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl over Cal.

Five different quarterbacks have started under center during Kittley's 26 games as offensive coordinator the past two seasons, including two true freshmen at the time in Behren Morton and Jake Strong. Morton returns for his junior season this fall after pushing the Red Raiders to a 6-1 record in games he started

and did not leave due to injury in 2023. He garnered honorable mention All-Big 12 accolades by the conference coaches after throwing for 1,757 yards and 15 touchdowns over his eight starts.

The 2022 season began Kittley's second stint on the Texas Tech coaching staff as he previously served in various roles under Kliff Kingsbury from 2013-17, rising from a student assistant to graduate assistant and assistant quarterbacks coach his final three seasons. Kittley worked alongside Kingsbury in the development of Patrick Mahomes II as a graduate assistant, tutoring the future NFL MVP into becoming the nation's leading passer in 2016 and an eventual top-10 selection by the Kansas City Chiefs.

Mahomes closed his Red Raider career ranked third all-time in passing yards (11,252), touchdown passes (93), attempts (1,349) and completions (857) despite foregoing his senior season to enter the NFL Draft. Mahomes, who was also second in the school record for rushing touchdowns by a quarterback (22), is one of three quarterbacks in FBS history to record 5,000 yards of total offense twice in a career, joining fellow Red Raider signal caller Graham Harrell (2007-08) and Houston's Case Keenum (2008-09, 2011).

The Chiefs eventually selected Mahomes with the No. 10 overall selection, making him the highest-picked quarterback in program history and the seventh Red Raider all-time to be chosen in the opening round. It took Mahomes only two seasons from there to garner NFL MVP honors as he was named the league's top player in his first year as Kansas City's starter in 2018. He followed a year later by leading the Chiefs to a win in Super Bowl LIV, becoming the youngest quarterback in NFL history to be named Super Bowl MVP in the process.

Mahomes is one of two NFL Draft selections to tutor under Kittley as Western Kentucky gunslinger Bailey Zappe heard his name called in the fourth round this past May by the New England Patriots. Zappe became the highest-drafted quarterback in Western Kentucky following a record-setting final collegiate season where he snapped the NCAA FBS records for single-season passing yards (5,967) and passing touchdowns (62).

Zappe actually broke the previous FBS record set by Texas Tech's own B.J. Symons that stood nearly 20 years up until Western Kentucky's win in the Boca Raton Bowl. Zappe, just the sixth quarterback in FBS history to record at least 5,000 passing yards and 50 touchdowns, was named the Conference USA Most Valuable Player as well as the winner of the Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award. He was a finalist for the prestigious Manning Award and a semifinalist for both the Davey O'Brien and Walter Camp Player of the Year awards.

Behind the arm of Zappe, Kittley transformed the Western Kentucky into one of the nation's most explosive offenses, averaging an impressive 44.2 points per game and 535.3 yards of total offense. The Hilltoppers closed the 2021 campaign as the FBS leader in passing yards per game (433.7) and first downs (384) and ranked second for both scoring offense and total offense and then 13th in red zone offense after scoring in 90.9 percent of their appearances inside the 20.

Kittley was hired by Western Kentucky after three seasons in a similar role at Houston Baptist where he, similarly, built one of the nation's top offenses at the FCS level. During its shortened 2020 season, Houston Baptist continually frustrated FBS opponents as Zappe, who later transferred to Western Kentucky after Kittley's hire, completed 65.6 percent of his passes for 1,833 yards and 15 touchdowns with only one interception over four games.

Zappe led the nation with 35 passing touchdowns in 2019 and ranked second in passing yards per game for a Huskies offense that was third nationally in passing offense with 334.3 yards per game through the air. Houston Baptist also ranked second in the Southland Conference and 12th nationally after posting 426.6 yards of total offense that season.

Houston Baptist was Kittley's first full-time coaching position after his time on the Texas Tech staff. The Red Raiders annually ranked among the nation's top offenses during his three seasons as a graduate assistant as Texas Tech led the country in total offense and passing offense and ranked fifth in scoring during the 2016 campaign. The Red Raiders, who averaged more than 30 points per game in each of those three seasons, were also second nationally in total offense and scoring offense in 2015.

A native of Lubbock, Kittley originally attended Abilene Christian to play basketball before transferring back to Texas Tech to complete his bachelor's in history in 2014. He earned his master's degree in interdisciplinary studies from the university in 2016.

Kittley and his wife, Emily, were married in February 2017 and are parents to three boys, Knox, Ford and Rhoads. Kittley is the son of Wes Kittley, Texas Tech's longtime Director of Track and Field who has led the Red Raiders to two national titles at the 2019 NCAA Men's Outdoor Championships and most recently at the 2024 NCAA Men's Indoor Championships.

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ABOUT ZACH KITTLEY…

"I was fired up to hear the news that Coach Kittley was coming back to Texas Tech. He's worked his tail off to earn this opportunity, and I know how passionate he is about the university and the Red Raider football program. He invested a ton of time in me while we were there together and really helped me develop as a college quarterback. He certainly had an impact on my career, but beyond the field, he's an incredible person, and I couldn't be more excited to see him lead this offense." – **Patrick Mahomes**, NFL MVP and Kansas City Chiefs quarterback

"I have such a high regard for Zach and his ability to coach, develop and shape players. He did such an incredible job when we were together at Texas Tech, and he definitely had a profound impact on Patrick (Mahomes) and his development. Early on, it was clear what a high football IQ he has and he's built upon that at every stage of his career. For him to return to Lubbock is so special not only considering his own history there but obviously because of his dad's legendary status. I couldn't be more excited for him and for the Texas Tech program." – **Kliff Kingsbury**, former Texas Tech head coach and current offensive coordinator for the Washington Commanders.

"Coach Kittley bleeds Red and Black. He was very instrumental in my career and one of the big reasons I am still playing today. He's a great coach and even better person. I can't wait to watch him light up the scoreboard. Welcome home, Kittley!" – **Davis Webb**, former Texas Tech and NFL quarterback and current quarterbacks coach of the Denver Broncos.

ZACH KITTLEY AT A GLANCE

Birthdate: Aug. 14
Hometown: Lubbock, Texas
Education: Texas Tech, 2014 (History), 2016 (Interdisciplinary Studies)
Family: Wife - Emily; Sons - Knox, Ford, Rhoads

COACHING HISTORY

2022-present – Texas Tech Offensive Coordinator (Quarterbacks)
2021 – Western Kentucky Offensive Coordinator (Quarterbacks)
2018-20 – Houston Baptist Offensive Coordinator (Quarterbacks)
2015-17 – Texas Tech Graduate Assistant (Assistant Quarterbacks)
2013-14 – Texas Tech Student Assistant (Offensive Intern)

BOWL GAMES AS A COACH (6): 2023 Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl (Texas Tech); 2022 TaxAct Texas Bowl (Texas Tech); 2021 Boca Raton Bowl (Western Kentucky); 2017 Birmingham Bowl (Texas Tech); 2015 AdvoCare Texas Bowl (Texas Tech); 2013 Holiday Bowl (Texas Tech)

▲ **ZACH KITTLEY** is the son of Hall of Fame head coach **WES KITTLEY**, who has led Texas Tech to two track and field national titles over his illustrious career with the most recent one coming at the 2024 NCAA Indoor Championships.

▲ **PATRICK MAHOMES II**

▲ **BAILEY ZAPPE**

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JUSTIN JOHNSON

Assistant Head Coach | Offensive Passing Game Coordinator | Wide Receivers Coach | Second Season

Justin Johnson enters his second season at Texas Tech in his role as assistant head coach, offensive passing game coordinator and wide receivers coach.

Johnson, nicknamed "Coach Juice," arrived in Lubbock after a three-year stint at Baylor where he worked alongside head coach Joey McGuire during the 2020-21 seasons. A known name throughout the state of Texas, Johnson has also worked at both Houston, his alma mater, and Kansas in full-time roles.

Johnson, an All-Conference USA wide receiver at Houston, served as the running backs coach at both Baylor (2020-22) and Houston (2019) before moving back to the wide receiver room upon his hiring at Texas Tech. He was previously the wide receivers coach at Kansas for the 2018 season.

Over his three seasons in Waco, Johnson's running back room proved to be one of the best in the nation as the Bears averaged 219.3 yards per game on the ground in 2021, which led the Big 12 Conference and ranked 10th in the FBS. Baylor ultimately won the Big 12 title that season and appeared in the Allstate Sugar Bowl, one of two bowl appearances for the Bears during Johnson's tenure.

Abram Smith powered the Baylor running game that season as the converted linebacker led the Big 12 and finished fifth nationally with 1,601 rushing yards. Smith also ranked second in the conference and seventh in the FBS after averaging 114.4 rushing yards per game, which was boosted by his 6.23 yards a carry. Smith, an All-Big 12 second team honoree in 2021, closed the season ranked second in the Big 12 and 14th in the FBS for yards per carry en route to signing as an undrafted free agent with the New Orleans Saints.

Smith paired with fellow Baylor standout Trestan Ebner each of the first two seasons of Johnson's tenure as a strong 1-2 punch at running back. Ebner, one of the best all-purpose backs in the country throughout his Baylor tenure, garnered second team All-America honors as a return specialist after totaling 1,047 all-purpose yards and a team-leading six touchdowns (one rushing, three-receiving, two kick returns) during the 2020 COVID-shortened season.

Ebner was named the Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Year following both the 2020 and 2021 seasons as well as a first team All-Big 12 honoree as an all-purpose player by the Associate Press. He became the first player in Baylor history to total more than 1,000 career rushing and receiving yards after notching 1,775 all-purpose yards his super senior season alone. Ebner closed his career ranked second all-time in Baylor history with 4,542 all-purpose yards before being selected in the sixth round of the 2022 NFL Draft by the Chicago Bears.

Johnson moved north to Waco after one season coaching running backs at his alma mater where he helped Houston achieve its 18th-consecutive season with at least 1,500 rushing yards in 2019. The Cougars' rushing attack ranked 37th in the FBS that season, averaging 188.2 yards per contest.

Prior to his time at Houston, Johnson spent three seasons at Kansas, serving as the wide receivers coach in 2018 after two years as an offensive analyst. He was previously a quality control assistant for Houston to start his career in 2012 and then a graduate assistant at Texas A&M in 2013 where he helped the Aggies to a 9-4 record and a win over Duke in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl.

In between, Johnson worked at the prep level like many others on the Texas Tech staff, serving as an assistant coach at both Frankford Middle School and Plano West High School in 2014 and then Berkner High School in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex a year later.

Before beginning his coaching career, Johnson was a four-year letterwinner for Houston where he still remains one of the top pass catchers in program history. A first team All-CUSA selection as a senior in 2011, Johnson had an explosive final season as a Cougar, catching 87 passes for 1,229 and 12 touchdowns as he still ranks in the top 10 all-time in Houston history for single-season receiving yards and touchdowns.

Johnson capped his Houston career with a bowl record 12 catches for 148 yards in the Cougars' 30-14 victory over No. 23 Penn State in the 2012 Ticket City Bowl. Johnson was considered one of Houston's most versatile athletes during his playing career, competing on special teams and as a running back, wide receiver and tight end at various times for a Cougars program that played in three bowl games and two Conference USA Championship games.

Off the field, Johnson was a member of Houston's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and was selected to participate in its Athletics Leadership Academy. He was awarded the Houston Committed Cougar Award twice.

Johnson earned his bachelor's degree in kinesiology and sports administration from the University of Houston in 2011. He and his wife, Aisha, have two children, Jayden and Kingsley.

JUSTIN JOHNSON AT A GLANCE
Birthdate: Sept. 18
Hometown: Richardson, Texas
Education: Houston, 2011 (Kinesiology & Sports Administration)
Family: Wife - Aisha; Son - Jayden; Daughter - Kingsley

COACHING HISTORY
2023-present - Texas Tech Assistant Head Coach/Passing Game Coord. (WRs)
2020-22 – Baylor Assistant Coach (Running Backs)
2019 – Houston Assistant Coach (Running Backs)
2018 – Kansas Assistant Coach (Wide Receivers)
2016-17 – Kansas Offensive Analyst
2015 – Berkner High School Assistant Coach
2014 – Plano West High School Assistant Coach
2013 – Texas A&M Graduate Assistant (Offense)
2012 – Houston Offensive Quality Control Assistant

BOWL GAMES AS A COACH (4): 2023 Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl (Texas Tech); 2022 Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl (Baylor); 2021 Allstate Sugar Bowl (Baylor); 2013 Chick-fil-A Bowl (Texas A&M)

C.J. AH YOU

Outside Linebackers Coach | Third Season

C.J. Ah You, a top developer of edge-type rushers in the country, enters his third season on the Texas Tech staff as the Red Raiders' outside linebackers coach. As part of Tim DeRuyter's aggressive defensive scheme, Ah You's room has quickly transformed into one of Texas Tech's biggest strengths in only two years.

The Red Raiders led the Big 12 and ranked 18th in the FBS for tackles for loss per game during Ah You's debut season as Texas Tech capped the 2022 campaign with four-consecutive victories, including a memorable win over Ole Miss in the TaxAct Texas Bowl. Texas Tech recorded eight stops behind the line of scrimmage in the win over Ole Miss with four coming from two emerging members of Ah You's position room in Myles Cole and Isaac Smith. That pushed Texas Tech's season total up to 91.0 tackles for loss, its most since 2003.

Texas Tech's performance in the Texas Bowl came without Tyree Wilson, who flourished under Ah You's direction, developing into a first team All-American and one of the top defensive prospects in the country. Wilson, an All-Big 12 first team honoree, was the Big 12 leader in tackles for loss per game and ranked among the national leaders in that category as well as sacks despite missing the final four games of the season due to injury.

Wilson became the 32nd Red Raider all-time to be named a first team All-American as he was recognized by the Football Writers Association of America (FWAA) following his final season in scarlet and black. He was the first defensive end or outside linebacker to be honored on a first team All-America list since Montae Reagor in 1998 and was the first to earn All-Big 12 first team honors since Brandon Sharpe in 2009.

His success on the field pushed Wilson up draft boards as he was ultimately selected seventh overall by the Las Vegas Raiders in the 2023 NFL Draft, making him the highest-drafted Red Raider defensive player in program history. Wilson matched Ring of Honor member Donny Anderson as being the second-highest drafted Red Raider in program history (all positions) and the highest in the modern era. Wilson was among the handful of prospects invited to attend the NFL Draft in Kansas City, allowing him to walk the stage to hug NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and immediately find a waiting Ah You in the audience.

Ah You has watched one of his pupils hear his name called during the NFL Draft in each of his two seasons as Cole was selected in the seventh round this past spring by the Jacksonville Jaguars. Cole developed into a NFL Draft selection in two seasons under Ah You after transferring to Texas Tech prior to the 2022 campaign from Louisiana-Monroe.

The 2022 season kicked off Ah You's second stint in the Big 12 Conference where he previously starred at Oklahoma from 2005-06 before enjoying a five-year NFL career with the St. Louis Rams. Ah You, who began his college career at BYU before transferring to Snow College and then Oklahoma, was the Big 12 Defensive Newcomer of the Year as a junior in 2005 and garnered All-Big 12 first team honors a year later.

The St. Louis Rams selected Ah You in the seventh round of the 2007 NFL Draft after he started in 21 of 26 games as a Sooner where he recorded 88 tackles, including 22.0 for a loss, 11.0 sacks and four forced fumbles.

After completing his tenure with the Rams, Ah You immediately joined the coaching profession, returning to his alma mater as a defensive quality control assistant for the Sooners during the 2014-15 seasons. Oklahoma played in the Russell Athletic Bowl his first year on staff before qualifying for the College Football Playoff in 2015 after the Sooners won the Big 12 title.

His success in helping develop the Oklahoma front paved the way for his first full-time coaching possession at Vanderbilt in 2016 where he enjoyed a three-year stint as the Commodores' defensive line coach. Vanderbilt made two bowl trips during his tenure, playing in the 2016 Independence Bowl and the 2018 Texas Bowl.

From there, Ah You moved to the professional ranks, joining the resurrected XFL in 2019 to serve as the defensive line coach for the New York Guardians. He later served a minority coaching internship with the Los Angeles Chargers in the summer of 2020 after the XFL's lone season was canceled earlier that spring due to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ah You returned to the college ranks a year ago to accept a defensive quality control analyst position at USC. He had previously been named the defensive line coach at Nevada prior to his hire with the Red Raiders.

Prior to beginning his professional career, Ah You earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from Oklahoma in 2006. He and his wife, Chynea, are parents to four daughters, Makiah, Atiana, Alei'a and Milani.

C.J. AH YOU AT A GLANCE

Birthdate: July 5
Hometown: Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.
Education: Oklahoma, 2006 (Sociology)
Family: Wife - Chynea; Daughters - Makiah, Atiana, Alei'a, Milani

COACHING HISTORY

2022-present – Texas Tech Assistant Coach (Outside Linebackers)
2021 – USC Defensive Quality Control
2020 – Los Angeles Chargers Minority Coaching Internship (Summer)
2019-20 – New York Guardians Defensive Line Coach (XFL)
2016-18 – Vanderbilt Assistant Coach (Defensive Line)
2014-15 – Oklahoma Defensive Quality Control Assistant

BOWL GAMES AS A COACH (6): 2023 Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl (Texas Tech); 2022 TaxAct Texas Bowl (Texas Tech); 2018 Texas Bowl (Vanderbilt); 2016 Independence Bowl (Vanderbilt); 2014 Russell Athletic Bowl (Oklahoma); 2013 Allstate Sugar Bowl (Oklahoma)

COACHING STAFF

JOSH BOOKBINDER

Inside Linebackers Coach │ Third Season

The 2024 football season will mark Josh Bookbinder's third as a charter member of Joey McGuire's staff at Texas Tech as he serves as the Red Raiders' inside linebackers coach.

Bookbinder's position room was among Texas Tech's best during his debut season as the Red Raiders were led by the duo of Krishon Merriweather and Kosi Eldridge in the middle of an aggressive defense that ranked among the nation's best in fourth-down stops and red zone efficiency. The Red Raiders gave up only 29.2 points per game, easily their lowest clip in more than a decade.

Merriweather and Eldridge played a large part in Texas Tech's success defensively, combining for more than 200 stops between the duo as the Red Raiders' leading tacklers. Merriweather led the team with 112 tackles, the most for a Red Raider since 2015, while Eldridge chipped in 91 of his own in easily his most-productive season of his career. The successful season earned Merriweather honorable mention All-Big 12 accolades.

Texas Tech surrendered only 26.0 points per game a year later as Bookbinder navigated around an injury to starter Jacob Rodriguez in the season opener, only for freshman Ben Roberts to develop into the Red Raiders' leading tackler. Roberts was named the Big 12 Defensive Freshman of the Year by the conference coaches and was a second team Freshman All-American by The Athletic after totaling 107 tackles, the most for a Red Raider freshman dating back to 1980.

Bookbinder reunited with McGuire after the two previously served on the defensive staff at Baylor over the previous three seasons. Bookbinder was a defensive quality control assistant during that span for a Baylor program that recorded a pair of 10-win seasons and appeared in two Big 12 Championship games, winning the conference crown in 2021. During his time with the Bears, Bookbinder worked under former Baylor and Carolina Panthers defensive coordinator Phil Snow, assisting with the safeties in 2019. From there, he transitioned to working with the outside linebackers under McGuire in 2020 before moving back to the safety position at the start of 2021 campaign.

Prior to his time at Baylor, Bookbinder was a defensive assistant for the San Antonio Commanders in the now-defunct Alliance of American Football (AAF). The Commanders were tied atop the Western Conference standings at 5-3 when the league folded midway through its inaugural season in 2019.

Bookbinder previously spent seven seasons at Liberty, rising from a defensive quality control assistant at the time of hire to eventually being named the Flames' linebackers coach. Liberty began its transition to the FBS level late in Bookbinder's tenure, kicking off the two-year process with a 48-45 upset win at his alma mater, Baylor, to start the 2017 season.

Liberty celebrated four Big South titles prior to its move to the FBS level, claiming the conference crown in Bookbinder's first three seasons on staff (2012-14) and again in 2016. That third conference crown helped Liberty receive its first-ever selection to the NCAA FCS Playoffs as the Flames finished the 2014 campaign ranked No. 17 in the country, their highest end-of-season ranking since 2008.

The Flames produced one of the FCS's top defenses during Bookbinder's first year as an assistant coach as Liberty closed the 2013 season ranked fifth in scoring defense (17.6 points allowed per game), ninth for total defense (313.9 yards allowed per game) and 16th in passing yards allowed per game (178.6). Liberty was also third nationally in turnover margin per game (1.3) and fifth with 19 interceptions.

Over this tenure, Bookbinder mentored several of Liberty's most-productive linebackers in its history, namely Nick Sigmon, who garnered All-Big South first team honors in 2013 and then second-team accolades as a senior in 2014. The four-year starter was one of one five linebackers to earn All-Big South honors under Bookbinder as Scott Hyland was a second-team recipient in 2013, while Nick Newman was a second-team selection following the 2014 and 2015 seasons and a first-team honoree in 2016. The list also features Dexter Robbins, a second-team honoree in 2016, as well as Solomon McGinty, who garnered second-team accolades in 2017.

Bookbinder began his coaching career as an undergraduate coach at Baylor from 2007-08. He served as a defensive quality control coach for the 2009 season at Richmond following graduation before spending two seasons at Division II Carson-Newman, coaching linebackers in 2010 and then the defensive ends and special teams in 2011.

A native of San Antonio, Bookbinder earned his degree in sports sponsorships and sales from Baylor in 2009. He and his wife, Ashley, are parents to two sons, Grant and Walt, and a daughter, Annie.

Bookbinder is the grandson of legendary Baylor head coach Grant Teaff and the son of Russ Bookbinder, who served as Vice Chancellor and Chief Marketing Officer for the Texas Tech University System from 2009-12. Teaff, a West Texas native and former Texas Tech assistant coach from 1966-68, remains the winningest head coach in Baylor history with 128 victories over his 21 seasons (1972-92).

JOSH BOOKBINDER AT A GLANCE

Birthdate: Sept. 8

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas

Education: Baylor, 2009 (Sports Sponsorships and Sales)

Family: Wife - Ashley; Sons - Grant, Walt; Daughter - Annie

COACHING HISTORY

2022-present – Texas Tech Assistant Coach (Inside Linebackers)

2019-21 – Baylor Defensive Quality Control Assistant

2019 – San Antonio Commanders Defensive Assistant (AAF)

2014-18 – Liberty Assistant Coach (Linebackers)

2013 – Liberty Assistant Coach (Outside Linebackers)

2012 – Liberty Defensive Quality Control Assistant

2011 – Carson-Newman Assistant Coach (Special Teams/Defensive Ends)

2010 – Carson-Newman Assistant Coach (Linebackers)

2009 – Richmond Defensive Quality Control Assistant

2007-08 – Baylor Student Assistant

BOWL GAMES AS A COACH (4): 2023 Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl (Texas Tech); 2022 TaxAct Texas Bowl (Texas Tech); 2021 Allstate Sugar Bowl (Baylor); 2019 Allstate Sugar Bowl (Baylor).

JOSH COCHRAN

Run Game Coordinator | Tight Ends Coach | Third Season

One of the top up-and-coming coaches in college football, Josh Cochran enters his third season on Joey McGuire's charter staff as Texas Tech's tight ends coach and his first in the role of run game coordinator.

The Red Raiders were among the most prolific teams in the country through the air during Cochran's debut season as Texas Tech averaged 302.0 passing yards and 34.2 points per game as one of the nation's top offenses. Cochran's unit contributed five touchdowns through the air, including a pair of crucial scores in wins over Texas and Iowa State by Baylor Cupp, all while contributing to the running game for an offense that totaled 2,000-plus yards on the ground.

Cochran was credited with developing many of the run schemes that helped Tahj Brooks become the fifth 1,500-yard rusher in school history in 2023. Due to injuries at the quarterback position, the Red Raiders transformed from a pass-heavy offense to one that relied on Brooks significantly on the ground as he ranked fourth nationally in rushing yards. Cochran's tight end room was essential to Texas Tech's success on the ground as the Red Raiders boasted a winning Big 12 record for a second-consecutive season and defeated Cal in the Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl.

The duo of Cupp and fellow tight end Mason Tharp combined for 29 receptions and six touchdowns during the 2023 season as Tharp ranked tied for second on the team with four touchdown receptions despite missing five games due to an injury. Cupp, meanwhile, signed an undrafted free agent agreement with the Kansas City Chiefs following the season.

In his short time already in Lubbock, Cochran has already been recognized as one of the nation's promising young coaches as he was tabbed to the 30 under 30 list compiled by 247Sports in 2022 as well as the 40 under 40 honor roll put together by *Dave Campbell's Texas Football*. He was also selected to the AFCA 35 under 35 Coaches Leadership Institute out of field or more than 200 applicants.

The 2022 campaign marked Cochran's first overseeing tight ends as he previously spent the previous two seasons as the co-offensive coordinator and offensive line coach at Austin Peay. In his two seasons on staff, Austin Peay was a combined 8-4 in Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) play and had three wins over ranked opponents, which included No. 7 Jacksonville State and No. 13 Murray State during the 2021 spring slate.

Cochran's unit ranked among the best in the conference as he had five offensive linemen recognized on the All-OVC teams during his tenure, including a two-time selection to the first team in Bucky Williams. Colby McKee was also a two-time honoree on the second team for an offense that led the OVC in scoring (32.5 points per game) and total offense (419.2 yards per game) in 2021.

Austin Peay was Cochran's first full-time coaching role at the FBS or FCS levels after previously serving in various roles at both North Carolina (2020) and Baylor (2017-19). His tenure at North Carolina reunited him with his former college coach Mack Brown as he was an offensive quality control coach for an eventual Orange Bowl participant up until his hire at Austin Peay in November 2020.

Cochran was a graduate assistant and offensive quality control coach during his three seasons at Baylor, assisting with the Bears offensive line during that span. He was a member of a Baylor staff that appeared in two bowl games during that time, first at the Academy Sports + Outdoors Texas Bowl in 2018 and then the Allstate Sugar Bowl a year later following an 11-win campaign and an berth in the Big 12 Championship game.

Prior to Baylor, Cochran spent one season at East Texas Baptist University in 2015 where he was the offensive line coach, mentoring four All-American Southeast Conference selections during that year alone. East Texas Baptist featured the top-ranked scoring offense in Division III that season, averaging an impressive 49.9 points per game.

Cochran began his coaching career like several other members of the Texas Tech staff in the high-school ranks as the offensive line coach at Lindale High School in East Texas. He is a former member of the Texas High School Coaches Association, an important aspect of Texas Tech's football program.

A three-year letterman on the offensive line at Texas, Cochran was tabbed a Freshman All-American by Yahoo! Sports in 2011. He played in 31 games over his Longhorn career, making 23 starts before ending his playing career early in the 2013 season due to a chronic shoulder injury. In addition to his success in the trenches, Cochran was also a first team Academic All-Big 12 selection in 2012 and a four-time member of the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll.

A native of Hallsville, Texas, Cochran earned his bachelor's degree in kinesiology from Texas in 2014 and then his master's in sports management from Baylor in 2019. He is married to the former Olivia Dietrichson. The couple welcomed their first child, Campbell, in March 2022.

JOSH COCHRAN AT A GLANCE
Birthdate: Sept. 9
Hometown: Hallsville, Texas
Education: Texas, 2014 (Kinesiology); Baylor, 2019 (Master's in Sports Mgmt.)
Family: Wife - Olivia; Daughter - Campbell

COACHING HISTORY
2024 - Texas Tech Run Game Coordinator (Tight Ends)
2022-23 – Texas Tech Assistant Coach (Tight Ends)
2020-21 – Austin Peay Co-Offensive Coordinator (Offensive Line)
2020 – North Carolina Offensive Quality Control
2019 – Baylor Offensive Quality Control
2017-18 – Baylor Graduate Assistant (Offensive Line)
2016 –East Texas Baptist Run Game Coordinator (Offensive Line)
2015 – Lindale High School Assistant Coach
2014 – Texas Student Assistant

BOWL GAMES AS A COACH (5): 2023 Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl (Texas Tech); 2022 TaxAct Texas Bowl (Texas Tech); 2020 Orange Bowl (North Carolina); 2019 Allstate Sugar Bowl (Baylor); 2018 Academy Sports + Outdoors Texas Bowl (Baylor).

ZARNELL FITCH

Defensive Line Coach | Third Season

Zarnell Fitch, another one-time Texas High School Coaches Association member on Joey McGuire's charter staff, enters his third season at Texas Tech as the Red Raiders' defensive line coach.

Fitch, no stranger to the Big 12 Conference, is regarded as one of the top defensive line developers in the country based on his work previously at TCU, his alma mater, and now with the Red Raiders. Texas Tech has recorded two of its best defensive seasons in recent memory during Fitch's tenure as the Red Raiders gave up 29.2 points per game in 2022 before lowering that mark to 26.0 this past season, their lowest average since 2009.

Texas Tech's success defensively has stemmed, in part, by the play of Jaylon Hutchings and Tony Bradford Jr., who were both honorable mention All-Big 12 selections in each of their final two seasons under Fitch. The two combined for 339 tackles, 56.5 tackles for loss and 26.0 sacks over 118 career games and 95 starts as one of the top interior defensive line duos in the country. In fact, they were the only pair of power-five interior linemen to create 30 or more quarterback pressures each during the 2022 campaign, according to *Pro Football Focus*.

Hutchings was credited with 50 tackles that season, the most for a Red Raider interior defensive line since current NFL standout Kerry Hyder in 2013. Bradford added 32 tackles of his own to go along with 5.5 sacks as part of an impressive tandem that ranked as the only pair of Big 12 interior defensive linemen to both record at least 30 tackles and 5.0 tackles for loss on the season.

That pressure allowed Texas Tech to rank eighth nationally in fourth-down defense, ninth in the FBS for red zone efficiency and 18th for total tackles for loss during the 2022 season where the Red Raiders finished 8-5 overall and recorded its best finish in the Big 12 standings in more than a decade.

Fitch arrived at Texas Tech after previously serving in a similar role at TCU prior to his hiring by McGuire. Fitch oversaw the TCU defensive line each of the previous six seasons with the Horned Frogs after beginning his tenure as the Director of High School Relations in 2014. Fitch served his alma mater in that role for two years before earning the promotion to a full-time position coach. Over his tenure, Fitch was part of six bowl teams at TCU and three seasons of 10 or more wins.

Over his tenure, Fitch helped TCU rank near the top of the Big 12 in combined sacks annually as the Horned Frogs found the quarterback 183 times over his six seasons, the third-highest total among conference members. During that time, TCU ranked among the top-40 schools nationally in sacks per game and tackles for loss per contest in four different seasons, rising to as high as No. 6 for sacks in 2016 and No. 10 in TFLs in 2020.

Fitch mentored 11 Horned Frogs who earned All-Big 12 honors during his tenure, a list that featured four first-team selections in Josh Carroway (2016), Ben Banogu (2017-18), L.J. Collier (2018) and Ross Blacklock (2019). Blacklock is among the most prominent defensive lineman of the Fitch era as he also garnered Big 12 Co-Defensive Freshman of the Year honors in 2017. As a senior, he helped boost a TCU defense that topped the league in nearly all major defensive categories en route to being picked in the second round of the 2020 NFL Draft by the Houston Texans.

Blacklock was one of two Horned Frog defensive lineman who heard their name called during the NFL Draft under Fitch as Collier was chosen 29th overall by the Seattle Seahawks in 2019. He was the first TCU defensive lineman to be selected in the first round since 2010 and only the third in program history to do so.

Fitch was a 2017 finalist for National Defensive Line Coach of the Year by FootballScoop.com after TCU notched 42 sacks that season, 11 more than any other conference team. The Horned Frogs were fifth nationally in rushing defense after allowing only 103.9 yards per game on the ground behind a dominating defensive line. Blacklock and Corey Bethley both earned Freshman All-American honors that season, while Banogu was tabbed the Big 12 Defensive Newcomer of the Year.

TCU had at least one defensive lineman recognized on the All-Big 12 teams in each of Fitch's six years as Aaron Curry was on the second team during his debut season in 2016, while Ochaun Mathis was a two-time selection to the second team in 2020 and 2021. Khari Coleman was also tabbed the Big 12 Co-Defensive Freshman of the Year under Fitch during the 2020 season.

Fitch's hire as TCU's defensive line coach returned him to the same position he once starred at for the Horned Frogs as he was a two-year letterman from 2004-05. A transfer from Navarro College, Fitch appeared in all 12 contests and made three starts as a senior, notably making a pair of interceptions that season, the final one of which coming in TCU's win over Iowa State in the EV1.net Houston Bowl.

Following his collegiate career, Fitch later spent time with the New York Jets, Baltimore Ravens and Washington Commanders as an undrafted free agent before eventually playing two additional seasons in arena football.

After retiring from football, Fitch joined the coaching staff at Lincoln High School in 2012, serving as an assistant coach for two seasons before being named head coach for the 2013 season. Fitch led the Tigers to a 7-4 record that season, which included a win over Dallas Carter in the Class 4A playoffs. He was also a special education teacher during his time at Lincoln.

Fitch earned his degree in communications and a minor in social work from TCU in 2006. Fitch and his wife, Mollie, have three sons, Zarnell III, Hunter and King, as well as two daughters, Haylee and Hope.

ZARNELL FITCH AT A GLANCE

Birthdate: July 4
Hometown: Spencer, Okla.
Education: TCU, 2006 (Communications)
Family: Wife - Mollie; Sons - Zarnell III, Hunter, King; Daughters - Haylee, Hope

COACHING HISTORY

2022-present – Texas Tech Assistant Coach (Defensive Line)
2016-21 – TCU Assistant Coach (Defensive Line)
2014-15 – TCU Director of High School Relations
2013 – Lincoln High School Head Coach
2011-12 – Lincoln High School Assistant Coach

BOWL GAMES AS A COACH (7): 2023 Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl (Texas Tech); 2022 TaxAct Texas Bowl (Texas Tech); 2018 Cheez-It Bowl (TCU); 2017 Valero Alamo Bowl (TCU); 2016 AutoZone Liberty Bowl (TCU); 2015 Valero Alamo Bowl (TCU); 2014 Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl (TCU).

CLAY MCGUIRE

Offensive Line Coach | First Season (Seventh Overall)

The 2024 season will mark the start of Clay McGuire's third stint on the Texas Tech coaching staff where he will oversee the Red Raider offensive line. He was hired by head coach Joey McGuire as Texas Tech's offensive line coach on Feb. 16, 2024, after coaching the position for each of the past five seasons and more than 10 years overall.

McGuire previously served his alma mater in various roles from 2006-09, ultimately rising to special teams coordinator (2007-08) and running backs coach (2009) under the late Mike Leach before returning again in 2018 to be the co-offensive coordinator and running backs coach for Kliff Kingsbury. He is believed to be only the second assistant coach in school history to serve three different stints on the Texas Tech coaching staff, joining the late Carlos Mainord.

McGuire (no relation to Joey McGuire) returned to his alma mater following two seasons as the offensive line coach at Washington State, his second stint with the Cougars after serving in a similar capacity for six years under Mike Leach from 2012-17. Washington State transformed into one of the most-dominating offenses in the country under Leach as the Cougars averaged more than 30 points per game in each of McGuire's last five seasons. The Cougars played in five bowl games over his eight combined seasons in Pullman as McGuire has been part of 10 bowl teams during his coaching career.

Part of the Cougars' success stemmed from the offensive line as McGuire recruited and coached several All-Pac 12 selections, including Joe Dahl, one of the top offensive linemen in Washington State history. Dahl, who transferred to Washington State soon after McGuire's hire in 2012, earned second team All-America honors by USA Today as a senior in 2015 to go along with All-Pac 12 first team accolades. Dahl was later selected by the Detroit Lions in the fifth round of the 2016 NFL Draft, marking the first time a Washington State offensive lineman has been chosen since 2001. In addition, he was the highest Cougar offensive lineman taken since 1997.

McGuire sent another Cougar to the NFL ranks following the 2017 season as Cole Madison, a three-time All-Pac 12 honoree, heard his name called in the fifth round of the 2018 NFL Draft by the Green Bay Packers. The 2017 season also closed the career of another McGuire protégé in two-time All-America selection Cody O'Connell, who became only the second unanimous All-American in Washington State history in 2016 and was the school's first Outland Trophy finalist.

O'Connell was a consensus All-American in 2017 after closing his career by earning first-team accolades from the Walter Camp Foundation and The Sporting News. He was the first Cougar to earn first team All-America honors in consecutive seasons since running back Rueben Mayes in 1984-85 and the first offensive lineman ever to do so.

In addition, McGuire also mentored Andre Dillard, the No. 22 overall selection in the 2019 NFL Draft by the Philadelphia Eagles, as well as four-time All-Pac 12 selection Abe Lucas while with the Cougars. Dillard was the first Cougar offensive lineman in school history to be selected in the first round as his selection marked the third time in a four-year stretch one of McGuire's pupils entered the NFL via the draft. He started in 39 games at left tackle under McGuire, earning third team All-America honors as a senior in 2018 after allowing only one sack and 13 total pressures in 722 pass-blocking snaps.

In addition to his time at Washington State, McGuire has also mentored successful offensive lines recently at both Texas State (2019-20) and USC (2021).

Those two stints followed his one season back on the Texas Tech staff where the Red Raiders averaged an impressive 37.3 points per game and 485.2 yards of total offense during the 2018 season.

McGuire, a four-year letterwinner as a blocking back for the Red Raiders from 2001-04, earned his first full-time assistant position five games into the 2007 season as he took over special teams duties, a role he earned on a permanent basis in 2008. Texas Tech opponents averaged just 6.7 yards per punt return once McGuire took over, while the kickoff coverage unit ranked second in the Big 12 in fewest return yards allowed.

Following his stint in Lubbock, McGuire joined Ruffin McNeil's staff at East Carolina where he helped reshape the Pirate's offense into one of the most explosive units in the country. East Carolina averaged 36.8 points per game in McGuire's first season alone as running back Jon Williams totaled 847 yards and 10 touchdowns on the ground. The Pirates were also drastically improved on special teams in 2010 as East Carolina ranked among the top-35 schools nationally in punt return average (30th), punt coverage (31st) and kickoff coverage (29th).

McGuire previously starred at quarterback and defensive end at Crane High School prior to becoming the first high school prospect to commit to the Red Raiders during the Leach era. He has two degrees from Texas Tech as he earned his bachelor's in history in 2004 and his master's in secondary education in 2007. His older brother, Cody, also played for the Red Raiders from 1994-97.

McGuire and his wife, Jeri, are the parents of two daughters, Jorja and Addison.

CLAY MCGUIRE AT A GLANCE

Birthdate: Feb. 5
Hometown: Crane, Texas
Education: Texas Tech, 2004 (History); Texas Tech, 2007 (Secondary Education)
Family: Wife - Jeri; Daughters - Jorja, Addison

COACHING HISTORY

2024-present – Texas Tech Assistant Coach (Offensive Line)
2022-23 – Washington State Assistant Coach (Offensive Line)
2021 – USC Assistant Coach (Offensive Line)
2019-20 – Texas State Assistant Coach (Offensive Line)
2018 – Texas Tech Co-Offensive Coordinator (Running Backs)
2012-17 – Washington State Assistant Coach (Offensive Line)
2010-11 – East Carolina Assistant Coach (Running Backs/Special Teams)
2009 – Texas Tech Assistant Coach (Running Backs)
2007-08 – Texas Tech Assistant Coach (Special Teams)
2007 – Texas Tech Graduate Assistant (Offensive)
2006 – Texas Tech Video Intern

BOWL GAMES AS A COACH (10): 2022 Jimmy Kimmel LA Bowl (Washington State); 2017 Holiday Bowl (Washington State); 2016 Holiday Bowl (Washington State); 2015 Sun Bowl (Washington State); 2013 New Mexico Bowl (Washington State); 2010 Liberty Bowl (East Carolina); 2009 Alamo Bowl (Texas Tech); 2008 Cotton Bowl (Texas Tech); 2007 Gator Bowl (Texas Tech); 2006 Insight Bowl (Texas Tech).

COACHING STAFF

MARCEL YATES
Defensive Passing Game Coordinator | Secondary Coach | Third Season

Veteran defensive coach Marcel Yates enters his third season on the Texas Tech defensive staff where he serves as passing game coordinator and oversees the Red Raider secondary.

Yates, a former defensive coordinator at both Boise State and Arizona, arrived in Lubbock with a strong understanding of Tim DeRuyter's defensive scheme as the 2024 campaign will mark their fifth-consecutive season working together after previous stops at both Cal (2020) and Oregon (2021). Yates has more than 20 years of coaching experience at the collegiate level and has been part of 17 bowl teams over his successful career.

That experience has paid dividends as Texas Tech implemented a new system that has resulted in two of its best seasons in recent memory. The Red Raiders allowed only 29.2 points per game in Yates' debut season in 2022 before improving to 26.0 points per game average this past season, its lowest clip in more than a decade. In fact, it marked Texas Tech's lowest scoring average since the 2009 season, the same year the Red Raiders had previously recorded five or more Big 12 victories prior to each of the past two seasons.

The Red Raider secondary has shown significant improvement under Yates after surrendering only 256.8 passing yards per game in 2022, their lowest clip since 2014. Texas Tech lowered that average even further this past season, giving up only 229.2 yards per game through the air en route to an eventual victory over Cal in the Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl. The Red Raiders previously closed the 2022 campaign with four-straight victories following a win over Ole Miss in the TaxAct Texas Bowl.

Yates has had six members from his position room garner All-Big 12 accolades during his tenure with two earning second team honors in Malik Dunlap (2022) and Dadrion Taylor-Demerson (2023). The list of recognitions has also included Rayshad Williams and Marquis Waters as honorable mention selections in 2022 as well as C.J. Baskerville, Bralyn Lux and Dunlap this past season.

Taylor-Demerson closed his Red Raider career with 10 interceptions, including six that came during Yates' tenure, which ranked tied for 10th in program history. He later heard his name called during the 2024 NFL Draft as the Arizona Cardinals selected the safety in the fourth round. Taylor-Demerson became the 11th defensive back during Yates' career to be chosen in the NFL Draft and the sixth to go in the first four rounds. Yates has had three other defensive backs sign free agent agreements during his Texas Tech tenure in Waters (New York Jets), Williams (Las Vegas Raiders) and Tyler Owens (Washington Commanders).

Yates served in a similar role at Oregon where he was the secondary and passing game coordinator during the 2021 season. The Ducks boasted one of the nation's most opportunistic defenses in the country in 2021, especially in the secondary where Oregon recorded 17 interceptions. Oregon closed the season ranked fifth in the FBS for total interceptions and 26th nationally with 22 takeaways following an appearance in the Valero Alamo Bowl. The Ducks ended the regular season ranked 13th in the final College Football Playoff poll following an appearance in the Pac-12 title game.

Oregon's success defending the passing game continued a trend from Yates' season at Cal where the Golden Bears ranked 23rd nationally and second in the Pac-12 after allowing only 197.8 yards per game through the air. Cal closed the 2020 season by defeating Yates' future employer with a 21-17 victory over No. 20 Oregon at home.

Yates accepted the position at Cal following four seasons as the defensive coordinator at Arizona where he worked with both the defensive backs and linebackers during various points of his tenure, including former Red Raider linebacker Colin Schooler. Schooler was a Freshman All-American and the Pac-12 Defensive Freshman of the Year in 2017 after racking up 13.5 tackles for loss, all in conference play, which was the most by an Arizona freshman since at least 1997.

Prior to Arizona, Yates spent a combined 11 seasons at Boise State, rising from cornerbacks (2003-05) and defensive backs (2006-10) coach to eventually being

MARCEL YATES AT A GLANCE
Birthdate: Sept. 16
Hometown: Los Angeles, Calif.
Education: Boise State, 2000 (Social Science)
Family: Son - Eric; Daughter - Kaybrie

COACHING HISTORY
2022-present – Texas Tech Passing Game Coordinator (Secondary)
2021 – Oregon Passing Game Coordinator (Secondary)
2020 – California Assistant Coach (Defensive Backs)
2019 – Arizona Defensive Coordinator (Safeties)
2018 – Arizona Defensive Coordinator (Linebackers)
2017 – Arizona Defensive Coordinator (Cornerbacks)
2016 – Arizona Defensive Coordinator (Linebackers)
2014-15 – Boise State Defensive Coordinator (Safeties)
2012-13 – Texas A&M Co-Defensive Coordinator (Defensive Backs)
2011 – Boise State Passing Game Coordinator (Defensive Backs)
2006-10 – Boise State Assistant Coach (Defensive Backs)
2003-05 – Boise State Assistant Coach (Cornerbacks)
2001-02 – Montana State Assistant Defensive Backs Coach

BOWL GAMES AS A COACH (17): 2023 Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl (Texas Tech); 2022 TaxAct Texas Bowl (Texas Tech); 2021 Valero Alamo Bowl (Oregon); 2017 Foster Farms Bowl (Arizona); 2015 Poinsettia Bowl (Boise State); 2014 Fiesta Bowl (Boise State); 2013 Chick-fil-A Bowl (Texas A&M); 2012 Cotton Bowl (Texas A&M); 2011 Las Vegas Bowl (Boise State); 2010 Las Vegas Bowl (Boise State); 2010 Fiesta Bowl (Boise State); 2008 Poinsettia Bowl (Boise State); 2007 Hawaii Bowl (Boise State); 2007 Fiesta Bowl (Boise State); 2005 MPC Computers Bowl (Boise State); 2004 Liberty Bowl (Boise State); 2003 Fort Worth Bowl (Boise State).

named the defensive coordinator (2014-15) for his alma mater. In between, Yates spent two seasons as the co-defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach at Texas A&M where he oversaw the defensive backs room.

Boise State won 87.6 percent of its games during Yates' tenure, compiling a 127-18 record after winning at least 10 games in nine of his 11 seasons with two undefeated campaigns. The Broncos qualified for a bowl game in each of Yates' 11 seasons on staff, while claiming eight conference championships (7 WAC, 1 Mountain West). Boise State wrapped both undefeated seasons with victories in the Fiesta Bowl, defeating No. 10 Oklahoma to wrap the 2006 campaign and then No. 4 TCU to end a memorable 2009 year.

Besides the slew of wins, Yates excelled in developing often overlooked prospects into successful college football players and eventual NFL selections. From 2007 to 2016 alone, seven of Yates' defensive backs heard their name called during the NFL Draft with two more that signed free agent deals on their way to long professional careers. Of those seven draft picks, four were selected in the first three rounds, which was highlighted by cornerback Kyle Wilson in the first round in 2010.

During his two seasons at Texas A&M, the Aggies were among the best teams in the country, wrapping the 2012 campaign at No. 5 in the Associated Press and USA Today Coaches polls after winning 11 games for the first time since 1998. Texas A&M followed with a 9-4 campaign in 2013, concluding that season at No. 18 in each poll.

Yates began his coaching career as an assistant secondary coach at Montana State. In his second season, the Bobcats won their first Big Sky Conference title and earned their first trip to the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs in 18 years.

Yates was a four-year letterwinner as a defensive back at Boise State (1996-99), which coincided with the school's first four years as a FBS program. His career culminated in the Broncos' first-ever bowl appearance and bowl win over Louisville in the 1999 Crucial.com Humanitarian Bowl.

Yates earned a degree in social science from Boise State in 2000. He has a son, Eric, and a daughter, Kaybrie.

LANCE BARILOW
Head Strength and Conditioning Coach | Third Season

Lance Barilow heads into his third season as the head strength and conditioning coach as part of Joey McGuire's charter staff at Texas Tech.

Barilow arrived in Lubbock following one season at Baylor where he served as the senior associate director of athletics performance with the football program. He concluded his tenure at Baylor with the Bears' victory in the Big 12 Championship game against Oklahoma State.

Barilow has worked in the Big 12 Conference each of the past four seasons as he moved to Baylor after spending the 2020 season as the associate director of strength and conditioning at Kansas. Prior to Kansas, Barilow was on staff at LSU from 2016-19, rising from an intern to eventually being named the associate director of strength and conditioning for football in 2018. He also worked with beach volleyball and soccer during his tenure with the Tigers.

In addition to his role at the collegiate level, Barilow has four years of experience as a private sport performance coach in Wisconsin and Illinois. He holds National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) certifications.

Barilow is a veteran of the United States Navy, serving from 2007-09 following a three-year career as a football letterwinner at Carroll College in Wisconsin. He completed his bachelor's degree in exercise science in 2007 from the university.

Barilow is married to the former Katie Raschka. The couple has three children, Brody, Lincoln and Braxson.
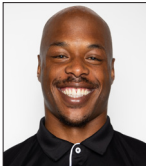
STRENGTH STAFF

AARON HALL
Sr. Assoc. Strength Coach

BRANDON LEE
Assoc. Strength Coach

KHALID BLOUNT
Asst. Strength Coach
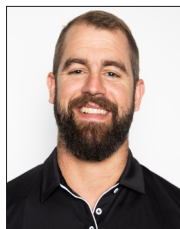
BRANDYN MUSGRAVE
Asst. Strength Coach

R.J. TORRES
Applied Sports Scientist

JOSH HAVERFIELD
Post-Grad Intern

STRENGTH STAFF

AARON HALL
Sr. Associate Strength Coach
Third Season
Youngstown State '15, UTEP '17

Aaron Hall is in his third season on the Texas Tech coaching staff where he serves as the senior associate strength and conditioning coach.

Hall, who arrived at Texas Tech following one season on the strength staff at Marshall, was promoted to senior associate strength and conditioning coach prior to the 2024 season as a key member of Lance Barilow's staff with the Red Raiders. He previously assisted with both football and track and field during his lone year with the Thundering Hurd.

This is Hall's third stint working alongside Barilow as the two were on the same staff together at both LSU and Kansas prior to their hire at Texas Tech. Hall was a strength and conditioning intern on the LSU staff in the spring of 2018 and later rejoined Barilow again in 2020 as an assistant strength and conditioning coach at fellow Big 12 member Kansas.

In between, he earned his first full-time position as an assistant strength coach at New Mexico State from 2018-19, working with its track and field, swimming, baseball and football programs. He moved to football exclusively that next fall as an assistant strength and conditioning coach on the Wyoming football staff for the 2019 season.

Hall began his professional career as an intern at Ohio State in 2015 where he assisted with the strength and conditioning training of many of the Buckeyes' Olympic sports. He accepted a graduate assistant role at UTEP from there, assisting with the Miners' football, track, volleyball and rifle programs.

Hall attended Youngstown State University where he earned his bachelor's degree in exercise science in 2015. He later added a master's in leadership studies from UTEP in 2017.

Hall and his wife, Hanna, are currently expecting their first child.

BRANDON LEE
Associate Strength Coach
Fourth Season
Thomas More '08,
North Carolina Central '17

Brandon Lee enters his fourth season as an associate strength and conditioning coach on the Texas Tech football staff where he works specifically with the Red Raider offensive and defensive linemen.

This marks Lee's second stint with the athletics department as he previously worked with the Red Raider basketball program during its Final Four run in 2018-19. Lee was an assistant strength and conditioning coach for the Red Raiders that season as Texas Tech claimed its first ever Big 12 Conference regular-season title and ultimately played Virginia for a shot at the national title. It was the first appearance at the Men's Final Four in school history.
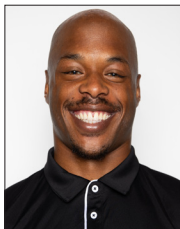
Lee departed Texas Tech following that season to join East Carolina where he was an assistant strength and conditioning coach for the Pirates' football and softball programs. Lee rejoined former Texas Tech assistant men's basketball coach Brian Burg at Georgia Southern soon after as he was named the head strength coach for Burg's first season as head coach in 2020-21.

Prior to joining the Red Raiders, Lee was the head strength coach at North Carolina Central from 2016-18 where he oversaw the strength and conditioning for all 14 Division-I programs.

A native of New Albany, Indiana, Lee played college football at Thomas More University where he was an All-President Athletic Conference offensive lineman as a senior and an honorable mention All-Conference selection as a junior. He was selected as one of the top-50 players in Division-III during his senior season and later played in the Division-III All-Star Game.

Lee earned his master's degree in athletic sports administration from North Carolina Central in 2017 and his bachelor's from Thomas More University in 2008. He is a certified strength and conditioning specialist through the NSCA.

KHALID BLOUNT
Assistant Strength Coach
Second Season
North Carolina Central '20, '21

Khalid Blount is in his second season as an assistant strength and conditioning coach on the Texas Tech football staff.

This is Blount's first full-time position at the collegiate level as he was previously a strength intern for the Pittsburgh football program during the 2022 season. The Panthers finished 9-4 that season after winning each of their final five games, including a 37-35 victory over No. 18 UCLA in the Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl.

Blount joined the coaching profession after ending his playing career as a defensive lineman at North Carolina Central University. He started in 16 games of his career, collecting 38 career tackles, including 3.5 that went for a loss.

Blount, a native of Washington, Pennsylvania, earned both his undergraduate and master's degrees from North Carolina Central. He completed his master's degree in kinesiology from the university in 2021.

Blount is the son of four-time Super Bowl winner Mel Blount, a 1989 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee after a stellar 14-year career as a defensive back with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

BRANDYN MUSGRAVE
Assistant Strength Coach
Third Season
Florida State '15, Concordia
Univ. of Chicago '18

Brandyn Musgrave enters his third season at Texas Tech as an assistant strength and conditioning coach for the Red Raider football program.

Musgrave, a former student-athlete himself at Florida State, arrived at Texas Tech following one season at fellow Big 12 member Baylor where he worked alongside head strength and conditioning coach Lance Barilow during the 2021 season. Musgrave quickly joined the Red Raider staff after Baylor completed a 12-2 season with a win in the Allstate Sugar Bowl.
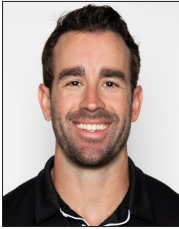
In addition to his time at Baylor, Musgrave served on the strength staff at Rutgers in 2019, his first full-time position at the collegiate level after working on the University of Miami staff as an intern in 2018. He joined the collegiate ranks after beginning his career as an assistant strength and conditioning coach at Barwis Methods, a leading performance training academy that boasts numerous professional athletes as clients.

Prior to joining the coaching profession, Musgrave was a fullback and linebacker at Florida State for 2013-15 where he was part of the Seminoles' historic 14-0 undefeated season and BCS National Championship in 2013. Florida State also played in the Rose Bowl (2014) and Peach Bowl (2015), finishing with at least 10 wins each season during one of its most-successful stretches in history.

Musgrave, a native of Port St. Lucie, Florida, earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from Florida State in 2015 and later added a master's in sports performance from Concordia University of Chicago in 2018.

COACHING STAFF

KIRK BRYANT
Senior Analyst/Asst. QB Coach
Third Season
Mississippi College '15
Baylor '19

Kirk Bryant enters his third season as a senior offensive analyst on the Texas Tech football staff where he assists offensive coordinator Zach Kittley with the Red Raider quarterbacks as well as opponent scouting.

Bryant arrived in Lubbock following two seasons as the inside receivers coach and recruiting coach at Austin Peay. Bryant was hired by the Governors prior to their 2021 spring season where Austin Peay finished 4-2 in Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) play, which included a pair of ranks wins over No. 7 Jacksonville State and No. 13 Murray State. Austin Peay was a combined 8-4 in conference games during Bryant's two seasons on staff.

Prior to his time with the Governors, Bryant spent four seasons at Baylor where he worked alongside head coach Joey McGuire. Bryant was an offensive graduate assistant with the running backs and wide receiver groups for the 2017-18 seasons before moving to a quality control role with the Bears' quarterbacks for the 2019-20 campaigns.

His position at Baylor followed a season as the wide receivers coach and operations director at East Texas Baptist where he coached a pair of All-American Southwest Conference selections in Chase Sojka (first team) and Richard Johnson (second team). The duo combined for almost 2,000 receiving yards that season with Sojka leading the team with 83 receptions for 1,074 yards, while Johnson posted 911 yards through the air on 52 catches.

East Texas Baptist featured the top-ranked scoring offense in Division III that season, averaging an impressive 49.9 points per game. Bryant worked that season under Scotty Walden, who would later bring both Josh Cochran and Bryant with him as part of his initial staff at Austin Peay.

Bryant began his coaching career as the wide receivers coach for his alma mater, Mississippi College, in 2015. Bryant, a native of Bullard, Texas, previously played three seasons at Mississippi State (2011-14), leading the Choctaws in receiving yards as a senior. He was the ASC All-Academic team in 2013 and a Gulf South Conference Academic Honor Roll recipient in 2015.

Bryant earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Mississippi College in 2015 and then added a master's in sports management from Baylor in 2019. He is the son of Keith Bryant, who is currently the superintendent of Lubbock Cooper ISD.

DARCEL MCBATH
Analyst
First Season
Texas Tech '08

Darcel McBath, one of the top defensive backs in school history, enters his first season as an analyst on the Texas Tech football staff.

In his role, McBath assists with Texas Tech's advance scouting, providing weekly analysis of opponents on both sides of the ball for offensive coordinator Zach Kittley and defensive coordinator Tim DeRuyter. He will also "self-scout" the Red Raiders, identifying in-game tendencies on a weekly basis.

A longtime assistant under the late Mike Leach, McBath returns to his alma mater following four seasons as the cornerbacks coach at Mississippi State (2020-23) and two additional years in a similar capacity at Washington State (2018-19). He began his coaching career as a quality control assistant at North Texas in 2016 before moving to Washington State in the same role the following season.
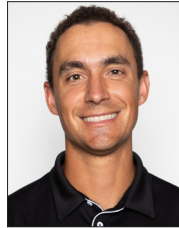
Mississippi State boasted three of its top cornerbacks in its history under McBath as he mentored Martin Emerson, a third-round selection in the 2022 NFL Draft, Emmanuel Forbes, the No. 16 overall pick of the 2023 NFL Draft and Decamerion Richardson, who heard his name called in the fourth round this past spring. Forbes, a consensus All-America selection as a senior in 2022, ranked third in the country that season with six interceptions and set the NCAA FBS record after returning his sixth interception for a touchdown.

Prior to joining the coaching profession, McBath played five seasons in the NFL after being selected in the second round of the 2009 NFL Draft by the Denver Broncos. McBath spent two seasons with the Broncos before moving on for one season with the Jacksonville Jaguars and two seasons with the San Francisco 49ers where he was a member of the Super Bowl XLVII roster.

A native of Gainesville, Texas, McBath was a four-year letterman at defensive back for the Red Raiders from 2004-08. McBath earned All-Big 12 first team honors as a senior in 2008 after leading the nation with seven interceptions as part of one of the top Texas Tech teams in program history. The Red Raiders finished 11-2 that season, rising to as high as No. 2 in the polls following 10-consecutive wins to start the season, including to top-ranked Texas.

McBath earned his degree in general studies from Texas Tech in 2008. He and his wife, Malorie, were married in 2013 and are parents to two children, Ansleigh and Duke.

TYLER SCHOVANEC
Asst. Special Teams Coordinator/Specialist Coach
Third Season
Carroll '15, Case Western '17

Tyler Schovanec enters his third season on the Texas Tech coaching staff and his first as an assistant special teams coordinator and specialist coach. He was previously a special teams analyst prior to his promotion before the 2024 season.

The Red Raiders have ranked among the nation's top special teams units during Schovanec's two seasons back on the Red Raider sideline. Texas Tech ranked in the top 20 nationally of four special teams statistical categories in 2023 alone, finishing second in punt return average (19.5), sixth in kick return average (25.5), 10th in blocked kicks (3) and 19th for net punting (41.5). The Red Raiders previously ranked ninth in 2022 for kick return defense and inside the top 25 for both blocked kicks and kick return average.

That success has been the result of a strong core of specialists in punter Austin McNamara and a pair of kickers in Trey Wolff and Gino Garcia. Wolff was among the most accurate kickers in college football in his lone season under Perry and Schovanec in 2022 as he connected on 21-of-25 field goal attempts, which ranked second all-time in Texas Tech single-season history.

An honorable mention All-Big 12 selection, Wolff was reliable in key situations throughout the 2022 season as he had nine field goals that came with under a minute remaining in the second or fourth quarters or in overtime. He had two game-winning kicks during the season, sending the Red Raiders to memorable come-from-behind victories over both Texas and Oklahoma for the first time in program history. He later signed a free agent agreement with the Tennessee Titans after an impressive showing at his Pro Day.

Garcia followed Wolff with honorable mention All-Big 12 accolades of his own after connecting on 16-of-22 attempts this past season, including an impressive 9-of-10 field goal tries during Big 12 play. Garcia, who played for Schovanec earlier in each of their respective careers at Houston Baptist, used his strong leg to become the first Red Raider in program history to connect on three field goals of at least 50 yards or longer in a season.

McNamara, meanwhile, solidified his spot as the most-successful punter in school history as he was tabbed the Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Year as a senior in 2023. McNamara, also a semifinalist for the Ray Guy Award and an All-Big 12 first team selection that same season, wrapped his career with a 45.91 career average, the highest in Texas Tech and Big 12 Conference history and the 10th-highest in the NCAA FBS record book.

McNamara also matched the FBS record by averaging at least 40.0 yards per attempt over 37 career games (minimum of four punts each game to qualify). McNamara averaged 46.3 yards per punt during his final season, marking his fifth mark that ranked in the top 10 in school history. He later signed a free agent agreement with the Cincinnati Bengals organization where he is expected to compete for the punter position leading into the 2024 NFL season.

This is Schovanec's third stint on the Texas Tech staff as he was previously a special teams quality control coach and personnel assistant for the Red Raiders in 2017. Prior to that, he was an intern to then football chief of staff Kenny Bell during the summers of 2013-15, assisting with many of the day-to-day operations of the football program.

In between, Schovanec was an offensive graduate assistant at Case Western University in 2016 where he served as running backs coach. During his lone season, running back Jacob Burke earned second team All-Presidents' Athletic Conference

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COACHING STAFF

honors after rushing for more than 1,000 yards while also ranking 18th in Division III with 16 touchdowns.

Schovanec joined the coaching staff after rounding out his playing career as a two-sport athlete in both baseball and football. The baseball program earned a berth to the 2016 NCAA Division III playoffs during his lone season. He previously played both sports at Carroll University in Wisconsin prior to transferring to Case Western for his senior season.
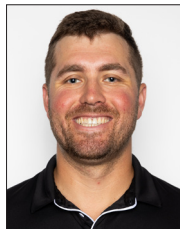
Schovanec received his first full-time coaching position at Houston Baptist in 2018 where he was the special teams coordinator and running backs coordinator for four seasons. Schovanec coached alongside Texas Tech offensive coordinator Zach Kittley for three of those seasons as Houston Baptist developed into one of the top offenses at the FCS level.

On special teams, Garcia set the HBU career records with 32 field goals and 84 extra points made over his three seasons as well as the single-season mark after finding the uprights 18 times during the 2019 campaign. Garcia was a first team All-Southland Conference honoree in 2021 as one of several Huskies who garnered all-conference accolades under Schovanec.

Kick returner Gamar Girdy Brito, who, like Garcia, set the HBU career marks for kick return yards and all-purpose yards, collected STATS FCS and Hero Sports All-America honors in 2019 to close his career as well as first team All-Southland Conference accolades. Punter Blake Patterson, meanwhile, was a two-time honoree as a second team selection in 2019 and a first team honoree the following year.

Schovanec, a native of Lubbock, received his bachelor's of science in business administration and management from Carroll in 2015 and a master's in management and finance from Case Western in 2017.

Schovanec married the former Sarah Gray in May 2024.

RYAN CONRY
Asst. Defensive Backs Coach
Third Season
Ohio State '18, Cal '22

Ryan Conry enters his third season on the Texas Tech staff and his first as an assistant defensive backs coach, working directly with defensive coordinator Tim DeRuyter and passing game coordinator Marcel Yates with the "Star" position.

Conry is more than familiar with both DeRuyter and Yates as he worked under both as a defensive graduate assistant at Cal during the 2019-20 seasons. The Golden Bears played in the Redbox Bowl in Conry's first season as Cal ranked 33rd nationally in scoring defense after allowing only 21.9 points per game. Cal was again among the Pac-12 leaders in scoring defense again a year later after surrendering only 26.5 points per game.

The Red Raiders have seen a similar rise defensively as Texas Tech gave up only 26.0 points per game in 2023, its lowest since 2009. Texas Tech has defeated power-five foes in its two bowl games during Conry's tenure, topping Ole Miss in the 2022 TaxAct Texas Bowl and then Cal in the 2023 Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl.

Between his time at both Cal and Texas Tech, Conry has worked with nine players who made their way to the NFL, a list that includes Jaylinn Hawkins, Ashtyn Davis, Camryn Byrnum, Elijah Hicks and Daniel Scott at Cal and then Marquis Waters, Dadrion Taylor-Demerson, Tyler Owens and Rayshad Williams during his two seasons at Texas Tech.
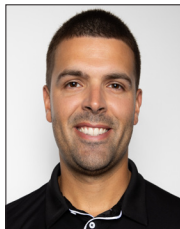
Waters, playing the "star" position in Texas Tech's defensive system, ranked second among defensive backs with 13.0 tackles for a loss as a senior in 2022 before signing as an undrafted free agent by the New York Jets. Taylor-Demerson, meanwhile, was selected in the fourth round of the 2024 NFL Draft by the Arizona Cardinals after a strong final two seasons where he combined for seven of his 10 career interceptions and was among the team leaders with 73 tackles both years.

All five defensive backs Conry worked with at Cal will enter 2024 on NFL rosters, meanwhile, as Davis, a finalist for the Burlsworth Trophy (nation's top walkon), was selected in the third round of the 2020 NFL Draft by the New York Jets. Byrnum heard his name called in the fourth round a year later by the Minnesota Vikings, while Hicks was chosen in the seventh round of the 2022 draft by the Chicago Bears and Scott was picked in the fifth round of the 2023 draft by the Indianapolis Colts. Hawkins, an undrafted free agent, enters his fifth NFL season in 2024 as a member of the New England Patriots.

Conry was hired at Cal after previously serving as a student coaching intern while earning his undergraduate degree from Ohio State. Conry began his tenure

with the Buckeyes as a recruiting intern for the 2014-15 campaigns before later working with the cornerbacks position room for the remainder of his tenure. Conry was part of the Ohio State program when the Buckeyes claimed the College Football Playoff National Championship in 2014.

Conry, a native of Shaker Heights, Ohio, earned his bachelor's degree in finance from Ohio State University in 2018 and then his master's in public health from the University of California-Berkeley in 2022.

TRENT VASEY
Asst. Running Backs Coach
Third Season
Western New England '17
Alfred University '19

Trent Vasey enters his third season on the Texas Tech coaching staff and his first as the assistant running backs coach. He was previously an offensive graduate assistant the past two seasons working with the Red Raider wide receivers.

This is Vasey's second stint in the Big 12 as he served in a similar role at Kansas during the 2021 season. Vasey also worked with the wide receiver group for a Kansas program in its first season under Lance Leipold, one that ended with a late November victory over Texas in Austin.
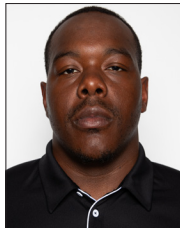
Kansas was Vasey's first position at the FBS level after serving as the tight ends and recruiting coordinator at Stonehill College in his home state of Massachusetts for the 2019-20 seasons. Vasey added recruiting coordinator responsibilities to his duties for his second season with the Skyhawks after previously serving as the video coordinator for the 2019 campaign. Prior to that, Vasey was a graduate assistant coach at Alfred University in New York, working with both the tight end and running back rooms during his two seasons.

Vasey joined the coaching profession following a successful playing career as a four-year letterwinner at Western New England University. Vasey garnered all-conference accolades at tight end during his playing career, helping lead the Golden Bears to a New England Football Conference title and a NCAA Division III playoff appearance each of his final two seasons in 2015 and 2016.

During his collegiate career, Vasey served as the assistant director and coach of the Blue Chip Football Academy and Bulldog Football School. He also completed a coaching internship at Dean College during the summer of 2015 and was an administrative intern for the entire athletics department the following summer.

Vasey earned his undergraduate degree in sports management from Western New England in May 2017 and later his master's degree in business administration from Alfred in 2019.

TAYLOR YOUNG
Asst. Inside Linebackers Coach
First Season
Baylor '16

Taylor Young enters his first season on the Texas Tech coaching staff as the assistant inside linebackers coach, working directly with third-year position coach Josh Bookbinder.

Young's arrival in Lubbock reunites him with many on the Texas Tech staff from his time as a student-athlete at Baylor. Young was one of the Big 12's most-imposing linebackers over his four-year career, totaling 325 tackles, 39.0 tackles for loss and 15.5 sacks, all while earning All-Big 12 honors three times and also being named Big 12 Defensive Newcomer of the Year by the Associated Press in 2014 and the Defensive MVP of the 2015 Cotton Bowl.
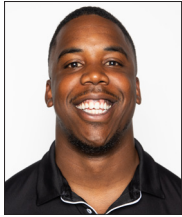
Young, whose last season coincided with head coach Joey McGuire's arrival in Waco as an assistant coach, remains one of the top tacklers in Baylor history as he still ranks third in career tackles for loss, fourth for both career solo tackles and sacks and tied for eighth in total tackles. Young made 40 career starts at linebacker for the Bears. He was invited to training camp with the Arizona Cardinals after completing his collegiate career.

This will be Young's third coaching stint at the collegiate level as he was previously a graduate assistant for Baylor during the 2019-20 seasons as well as a quality control assistant at North Texas for the 2021 campaign. Young assisted the linebacker room at both schools, while also contributing to North Texas' special teams units during his lone season in Denton.

COACHING STAFF

Like many members of McGuire's staff, Young also has experience at the prep level as he served as the special teams coordinator and linebackers coach at Richardson High School in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex the past two seasons.

Young began his coaching career after earning his undergraduate degree in education from Baylor in 2016. He is expected to complete his master's of sport pedagogy from Baylor this fall.

JAH'SHAWN JOHNSON
Graduate Assistant/Asst.
Defensive Backs Coach
Third Season
Texas Tech '18

Former Red Raider great Jah'Shawn Johnson enters his third season on the Texas Tech coaching staff where he serves as a graduate assistant with the secondary.

The Red Raiders have enjoyed two of their most-successful seasons defensively in recent memory thanks to a much-improved secondary. Texas Tech surrendered only 26.0 points per game in 2023, its lowest since 2009, while the secondary gave up only 229.2 passing yards per game through the air, the lowest for the Red Raider defense since 2014. Texas Tech has won a bowl game in each of Johnson's two seasons after topping Ole Miss in the 2022 TaxAct Texas Bowl and then Cal in the 2023 Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl.

Three members from the secondary have been recognized on the All-Big 12 teams during each of Johnson's two seasons, highlighted by a pair of second team honorees in Malik Dunlap in 2022 and Dadrion Taylor-Demerson in 2023. Taylor-Demerson, who combined for seven interceptions his final two seasons, was selected in the fourth round of the 2024 NFL Draft by the Arizona Cardinals, representing one of four Red Raider defensive backs who have received a pro opportunity during his tenure.

Prior to joining head coach Joey McGuire's staff, Johnson was an assistant coach for his alma mater at Ennis High School. Serving under legendary head coach Sam Harrell, Johnson worked primarily with the defensive backs for an Ennis program that advanced to the area round of the Class 5A Division II playoffs in each of his two seasons on staff.

Ennis was Johnson's first coaching position after completing a decorated playing career as a Red Raider where he was a four-year starter in the secondary. Johnson, a two-year captain, started 45 games in scarlet and black as he recorded 298 tackles from 2014-18, including 10.5 for a loss, while also adding six interceptions, 14 pass breakups, six forced fumbles and five fumble recoveries.

Johnson was a three-time All-Big 12 selection, earning honorable mention accolades as a redshirt freshman in 2015 and again as a senior in 2018. He was a second team All-Big 12 pick as a junior after registering 97 tackles for a Tech defense that ranked sixth nationally with 29 takeaways.

Johnson, one of the early signees under then head coach Kliff Kingsbury, earned his undergraduate degree in sport management from Texas Tech in 2018. He is currently pursuing his master's degree in interdisciplinary studies from the university.

Johnson is the son of Tamara Johnson and Keith Davis. His father previously played football at the collegiate level as well at Sam Houston State before a decorated NFL career with the Dallas Cowboys (2002-07, 2008), Miami Dolphins (2008) and Oakland Raiders (2009).

JACKSON KIMBLE
Graduate Assistant/Asst.
Offensive Line Coach
First Season
Baylor '21, '22

Jackson Kimble enters his first season as an offensive graduate assistant on the Texas Tech coaching staff where he assists with the offensive line.
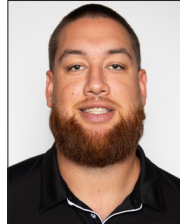
A former offensive lineman himself at Baylor, Kimble arrived at Texas Tech prior to spring football following one year in a similar capacity at Buffalo. Kimble helped mentor two All-MAC selections during his lone season as left tackle Gabe Wallace and right guard Tyler Doty were both recognized as third team selections by the conference coaches.

It marked the second coaching position of his young career as he was previously a student assistant coach at Baylor during the 2022 campaign.

The Bears played in the Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl that season.

Kimble, a native of Southlake, Texas, struggled with injuries during his career at Baylor before medically retiring following the 2021 season. He was a six-time Commissioner's Honor Roll honoree during his time at Baylor and was recognized on the Academic All-Big 12 first team during his final season.

Kimble is a two-time graduate of Baylor, earning his undergraduate diploma in business and corporate communications in 2021 and then his master's in sport management in 2022.

COLE MAXWELL
Graduate Assistant/Asst.
Defensive Line Coach
Second Season
Baylor '22

Cole Maxwell enters his second season on the Texas Tech coaching staff as he serves as a graduate assistant working specifically with the defensive line.

The Red Raiders gave up only 26.0 points per game during Maxwell's first season on staff, their lowest since 2009, behind the consistent play in the middle from Tony Bradford Jr. and Jaylon Hutchings. Both senior earned honorable mention All-Big 12 accolades en route to pushing Texas Tech to a 5-4 record in Big 12 play and a victory over Cal in the Radiant Technologies Independence Bowl.

The 2023 season marked Maxwell's first in a coaching position following a successful playing career at Baylor where he played under head coach Joey McGuire. Maxwell started in 19 games along the defensive line with the Bears, helping push Baylor to a Big 12 title in 2021 and a victory in the Allstate Sugar Bowl. Baylor also made a Big 12 Championship appearance during his 2019 sophomore campaign, which was unfortunately cut short due to injury.

For his career, Maxwell totaled 48 tackles, including 2.5 for a loss and 1.5 sacks, while also a forced fumble and three pass breakups. He was an honorable mention All-Big 12 selection in 2021 after making 27 stops and 1.5 sacks over 13 starts. Maxwell had three tackles in both the Big 12 Championship win over Oklahoma as well as the victory versus Ole Miss in the AllState Sugar Bowl, which also featured his first-career solo sack.

Maxwell signed with Baylor as part of the first signing class to ink with then head coach Matt Rhule, a staff that also featured McGuire as one of its first members. He was previously an All-State defensive lineman out of Allen High School where he was the District 6-6A Defensive MVP as a senior in 2016. Allen finished 14-1 that season, falling in the Class 6A Division I state semifinals.

Maxwell earned his bachelor's degree in education from Baylor in 2022 prior to his hiring at Texas Tech.

TITO OVERTON
Graduate Assistant/Asst. Wide
Receivers Coach
First Season
Buffalo '19

Jordan "Tito" Overton enters his first season as a graduate assistant on the Texas Tech coaching staff where he works with the Red Raider wide receivers.

Overton joined the Red Raiders following two seasons in a similar capacity at Vanderbilt. The Commodores marked Overton's third position at the college level as he was previously the wide receivers coach at Dayton in 2021 as well as at Franklin College in 2020.

Overton has also worked at the NFL level as he was selected for the Bill Walsh Diversity Coaching Fellowship position with the Carolina Panthers in 2023.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Overton played collegiately at Buffalo where he appeared in 22 career games as both a wide receiver and kick returner. Overton signed with the Bulls out of Brush High School where he earning All-Ohio honors as a senior.

Overton earned his undergraduate degree in communications from Buffalo in 2019 and added his master's in liberal arts from Vanderbilt in 2023.

He is engaged to Cydnee Martin.

SUPPORT STAFF

ANTONIO HUFFMAN
Associate A.D. /
Football Administration
Sixth Season
Texas Tech '06

Former Red Raider defensive back Antonio Huffman enters his sixth season on the Texas Tech football staff and his fourth in the role of Associate Athletics Director for football administration. Huffman previously served as Chief of Staff before earning his current promotion.

As part of his expanded role, Huffman oversees the day-to-day operations for the football program, all while adding administrative duties within the athletics department. He is the football program's liaison to administration regarding any legislation pertaining to name-image-likeness (NIL) as well as facility improvements, namely the south end zone and Dustin R. Womble Football Center project that will open beginning with the 2024 season.

Huffman returned to his alma mater prior to the 2019 campaign to oversee the non-coaching aspects of the football program, including departmental budget, academics, team travel, summer camps and all other day-to-day operations. He spent the seven previous seasons as the Director of Football Operations at Washington State.

This is Huffman's second stint on the Texas Tech staff as he was previously the Director of Player Personnel during the 2008-09 seasons. Huffman served as the football program's liaison with athletics compliance during those two seasons, while also assisting with Tech's recruiting operations where he set up official and unofficial visits, campus tours and summer camps.

In addition, Huffman oversaw housing placement for each Red Raider student-athlete during his tenure and also worked closely with the academic staff at the Marsha Sharp Center for Student-Athletes. He added additional responsibility in 2009 as he supervised the presentation and maintenance of the aesthetics in the Football Training Facility.

Huffman orchestrated many of Tech's community relations activities during his tenure, including the popular "Huff's Huggables" charity drive he founded late in his playing career. "Huff's Huggables" provided stuffed animals to the Lubbock Police Department for officers to provide to local children during difficult moments.

Following his two seasons on staff, Huffman followed former Tech defensive coordinator Ruffin McNeil to East Carolina where he spent the 2010-11 seasons in a similar role with the Pirates. East Carolina played in the Military Bowl during McNeil's first season as the program's head coach.

Huffman departed East Carolina following the 2011 season to rejoin his former head coach Mike Leach at Washington State. He spent the first four seasons of his tenure as the Director of Football Operations before earning a promotion to Assistant Athletics Director after the 2015 season.

With the Cougars, Huffman oversaw the day-to-day operations of the football staff, namely team travel, the Cougar guest coach program and summer camps and clinics. He was also the football liaison for compliance, academics and student conduct throughout his tenure, which culminated with the Cougars winning 11 games in 2018, the most in school history.

A three-year starter at defensive back for the Red Raiders, Huffman completed his Red Raider career in 2006 with 189 tackles, four interceptions and 25 pass breakups. He was named the Defensive MVP in his final game as a Red Raider after picking off a crucial interception in Tech's 44-41 come-from-behind victory over Minnesota in the 2006 Insight Bowl.

Huffman excelled academically during his time as a student-athlete, earning selections to prestigious honors such as the John Wooden Leadership Cup (2007), NCAA Leadership Conference (2006), Draddy Award (semifinalist in 2006) and the President and Dean's List (2005-06). He earned his degree in human development and family studies from Tech in 2006 and has since pursued a master's degree in sociology.

Huffman, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, attended Garden City (Kan.) Community from 2001-03 before transferring to Texas Tech. Following his collegiate career, he played one season for the Lubbock Renegades of the AFL2.

Huffman is married to the former Shelley Bartley of Lubbock. They are the parents of a son, Aeson Deon, and a daughter, Aniyah Jordan.

JAMES BLANCHARD
General Manager
Third Season

James Blanchard was named the first member of Texas Tech head coach Joey McGuire's charter staff as he serves as General Manager and oversees the Red Raiders' recruiting operation.

Blanchard joined McGuire in Lubbock immediately upon his hire, reshaping the Red Raiders' entire recruiting process from scouting to on-campus visits as part of Texas Tech's unique model that resembles an NFL front office. Blanchard and his staff identify are responsible for identifying every prospect Texas Tech ultimately offers a scholarship opportunity, allowing McGuire and his coaching staff to prioritize player development and scouting, especially during the season.

That setup has transformed the Red Raiders' roster in just two seasons as Texas Tech is coming off consecutive top-25 classes. Texas Tech's 2023 class ranked as high as No. 23 nationally by Rivals, marking its highest-rated class in more than a decade. Its 2024 class, meanwhile, also ranked as high as No. 23 nationally and was the highest-rated class in the Big 12. The Red Raiders previously signed a top-40 ranked class in the month after McGuire's hire, a considerable jump from where Texas Tech ranked prior to his arrival.

Considered one of the top personnel directors in college football, Blanchard was the first major addition to McGuire's staff as he was identified as one of the top rising personnel and recruiting staffers in college football by On3.com in August 2022.

Blanchard was previously in the midst of his second stint as Baylor's Assistant A.D. for scouting prior to immediately joining McGuire upon his hire. Blanchard rejoined the Baylor football staff in January 2021 as he was responsible for identifying and pursuing prospective scholarship student-athletes. He previously served as Director of Recruiting for the Bears from March 2019 to May 2020 before accepting a position with the Carolina Panthers in the NFL.

While with the Panthers, Blanchard was responsible for breaking down opponent film and evaluating potential free agents for Carolina's front office. He departed Baylor for the NFL alongside former Baylor head coach Matt Rhule, who accepted the Panthers head coaching position following the 2019 season.

A native of Orange, Texas, Blanchard was a member of the football program at West Orange-Stark High School before later studying psychology at Lamar.

He is married to the former Kiara Fowler. The couple has five children - Kenley, Karrington, Karter, Kali and Kason.

SUPPORT STAFF

QUINTIN JORDAN
Director of Football Operations
Third Season
Texas Tech '10, '12

Quintin Jordan returned to his alma mater in 2022 as the Director of Football Operations as part of Joey McGuire's charter staff at Texas Tech.

In his role, Jordan is instrumental in many of the behind-the-scenes aspects of the football program, assisting with the planning and execution of team travel, while serving as the primary contact for the initial eligibility process of incoming student-athletes, which includes Texas Tech's admissions, progress towards degree, financial aid and NCAA certification offices. Jordan also coordinates Texas Tech's annual senior and junior retreats each summer as well as numerous team events throughout the calendar year.

Jordan reunited with McGuire not long after his hiring at Texas Tech as the previously were on the same staff at Baylor over a four-year span. Jordan served as the Director of Football Operations over his final three years at Baylor where the Bears enjoyed two 11-win seasons and won the Big 12 title during his final season on staff in 2022. Baylor also played in the Big 12 Championship game in 2019.

Jordan began his tenure with the Bears as the associate director of student-athlete development in July 2018 being moving directly on the football staff under head coach Matt Rhule. Jordan was not only retained but promoted when Baylor head coach Dave Aranda was hired in 2020, placing him in charge of many of the logistical aspects of the program as Director of Football Operations.

In his role with the student-athlete development office, Jordan was responsible for managing the leadership development program as well as the First Year Course, Personal Skills programming and the Student-Athlete Advisor Committee (SAAC).

Prior to Baylor, Jordan spent five years as the associate director of sport services at Conference USA, serving as the primary administrator for cross country, track and field and men's tennis. Jordan was on the championships team, helping oversee logistics for Conference USA's football and basketball championships and was the league's liaison annually for Battle for Atlantis, one of the top college basketball events each season hosted in the Bahamas.

Jordan also played a significant role in student-athlete development, representing the league as a facilitator for the NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Forum and the Emerging Leaders Seminar selections committee. In addition to his work promoting the league's student-athletes, Jordan was responsible for managing the conference's video exchange program.

Jordan began his professional career at the NCAA national office in Indianapolis where he experienced firsthand the legislation process. The position provided Jordan ample experience by answering NCAA legislative calls, conducting amateurism certifications and by working with the NCAA Eligibility Center's high school review department and the National Letter of Intent program.

Over his career, Jordan has been selected to work numerous conference and national championship events, including two College Football Playoff National Championships and five combined NCAA men's or women's Final Fours. He was also selected to participate in the NCAA Dr. Charles Whitcomb Leadership Institute in 2019, which provides tailored programming to assist ethnic minorities in strategically mapping and planning their careers in athletics administration.

Jordan, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, graduated from Texas Tech in 2010 with his bachelor's degree in business administration from the Rawls College of Business. He received his master's of science in sports management in 2012.

He and his wife, BrenShavia, are parents to three children – Josiah, Aaliyah and Quintin Jr.

DAVE MARTIN
Director of Player
Development
Third Season
East Central Oklahoma '99

Dave Martin reunited with head coach Joey McGuire shortly after his hire at Texas Tech as he was named Director of Player Development on his charter staff.

The role is an important one for McGuire, who quickly plunked Martin to oversee many of the Red Raiders' initiatives in the Lubbock community. Martin, a former assistant coach under McGuire at Cedar Hill High School, is also the football liaison for the academic advising staff located at the Marsha Sharp Center for Student-Athletes.

Martin, like McGuire, arrived in Lubbock as one of the top high school coaches in his native state of Oklahoma as he was an impressive 138-38 over 14 seasons as the athletic director and head football coach at Jones High School in the Oklahoma City area. Martin led his alma mater to seven district championships and a playoff appearance in all but one season, making Jones easily one of the top programs in the state.

The highlight of his tenure came in 2016 when Jones claimed the Class 3A state title, the first for the Longhorns in school history. The monumental win for Jones followed similar close finishes under Martin as the Longhorns appeared in the state title game previously in 2011, his fourth season as head coach, and then the state semifinals in 2012 and 2015. Jones returned to the state semifinals a year after that state title victory in 2017 as well.

The 2016 season earned Martin a slew of coaching honors as he was tabbed the All-State Coach of the Year by The Oklahoman, the Jim Thorpe Award Oklahoma Hall of Fame Coach of the Year, the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame Coach of the Year, the Region 8 Coach of the Year and District Coach of the Year. He was named the top coach in the district seven times over his tenure and was twice recognized with region and Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame honors.

As an athletics director, Martin also oversaw two other sport programs in baseball and women's basketball that claimed state titles during his tenure. His work as an administrator was twice recognized by his peers as he was named the District 8 Athletic Director of the Year following the 2018 and 2019 academic years.

Martin, a member of the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA), the Oklahoma Coaches Association (OCA) and the Oklahoma Football Coaches Association (OFBCA), began his coaching career alongside McGuire as the outside linebackers coach at Cedar Hill under then head coach Robert Woods. Once McGuire was promoted to head coach prior to the 2003 season, Jones shifted over to oversee the defensive backs.

Cedar Hill was the first coaching position for Martin after he earned his degree in science and education from East Central Oklahoma University in 1999. Martin returned to his native state of Oklahoma in 2004 to become the defensive coordinator at Harrah High School just east of Oklahoma City. That position helped him return to Jones as an assistant coach in 2007 before being promoted to the top chair the following season.

Martin and his wife, Tara, are parents to two children, a son, Braiden, and a daughter, Blakeley. Braiden is currently a student assistant coach for the Red Raider football program, while Blakeley is entering her sophomore year of high school.

SUPPORT STAFF

BRIAN NANCE
Director of Player Personnel
Third Season
Baylor '18

Brian Nance enters his third season on the Texas Tech staff where he has helped build the Red Raiders into one of the top recruiting operations nationally under head coach Joey McGuire and general manager James Blanchard.

Texas Tech has signed a pair of top-25 classes since Nance arrived in Lubbock in April 2022 before the summer recruiting period. Both classes ranked as high as No. 23 nationally, marking the first top-25 recruiting ranking for the Red Raiders in more than a decade by the major recruiting services. The Red Raiders are coming off a 2024 recruiting class that was the highest-rated class in the Big 12 Conference.

Nance arrived at Texas Tech first as Director of Scouting before moving into the Director of Player Personnel role prior to the 2023 campaign. He pairs with Blanchard in helping identify future student-athletes as part of Texas Tech's NFL model in its personnel department.

Nance joined the Red Raider football program after previously serving on the staff at Baylor where he worked alongside both McGuire and Blanchard. Nance joined the Baylor staff in 2019 first as assistant director of football operations under then head coach Matt Rhule before moving to the recruiting side as associate director of player personnel in 2020.
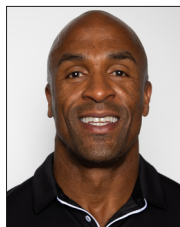
Baylor played in two Big 12 title games during Nance's three seasons on staff as the Bears fell to Oklahoma in 2019 before topping Oklahoma State in 2022. Both trips led to appearances in the Allstate Sugar Bowl as Baylor was a combined 25-12 overall over his three seasons.

In addition to his time at the collegiate level, Nance joins a long list of Texas Tech staffers who have experience as part of the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) after serving as an assistant coach at Temple High School near Waco in 2018. He joined the Baylor staff immediately following that football season.

Nance was a three-year letterwinner at Baylor from 2014-17 where he developed into one of the top defensive linemen in the Big 12 his senior season. Nance appeared in 38 games with 10 starts as a Bear, capping his tenure with a strong final campaign that saw career highs with 33 tackles, 8.5 tackles for loss and 2.5 sacks.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Nance graduated from Euless (Texas) Trinity High School in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex in 2012. He earned his degree in kinesiology and leisure studies from Baylor in 2018.

Nance and his girlfriend, Aereal Dickerson, a 2016 Baylor graduate, have three children: Jayvon, Brielle and Brian III.

SAMMY MORRIS
Director of Player Support &
NFL Liaison
Fourth Season
Texas Tech '99

Texas Tech great and NFL veteran Sammy Morris enters his fourth season on the Red Raider football staff as the Director of Player Support Development and NFL liaison.

In his role, Morris is Texas Tech's liaison to NFL scouts and team personnel as part of head coach Joey McGuire's open-door policy for all 32 teams. Morris also puts together a video series for the Red Raiders, presenting various football situations as part of his weekly Football IQ series. His most important role, however, is as a life coach and advisor for more than 100 student-athletes in the football program based on his own experiences as an athlete at both the collegiate and professional levels. Morris often serves as an advisor for freshman and transfer student-athletes entering the program.

The job responsibilities outlined possibly couldn't be a better fit for Morris, who has his own unique story that will relate to student-athletes. Once one of the top athletes to come out of the San Antonio area, Morris looked to be the future at running back for the Red Raiders as a freshman in 1996 before academic issues kept him off the field for the next three seasons.

Morris returned and was elected a team captain prior to his 1999 senior season where he had a memorable 170-yard performance against rival Texas A&M and eventually led the team with 948 all-purpose yards. His efforts were recognized following the season as he was tabbed the Pete Cawthon Memorial Team MVP and was honored with Donny Anderson Sportsmanship Award.

Morris' redemption story earned him an opportunity at the next level a few months later when the Buffalo Bills selected him in the fifth round of the 2000 NFL Draft. The Bills were one of four stops for Morris during his 12-year NFL career as he played in Super Bowl XLII with the Patriots. He played for Buffalo from 2000-03 before stints with the Dolphins (2004-06), Patriots (2007-10) and the Cowboys (2011).

Following his playing career, Morris served as an assistant coach for Attleboro High School (Mass.) beginning in 2013 and then as an assistant strength and conditioning coach with the Patriots from 2016-18. Morris, who was part of the Patriots' Super Bowl LI championship team, was hired in 2018 as the running backs coach at Dean College.

The son of an Air Force veteran, Morris earned his undergraduate degree at Texas Tech in communications studies in the fall of 1999. He and his wife, Leslie, are parents to three children, daughters, Kiera and Jadyn, as well as a son, Sammy. Kiera and Jadyn are currently students at Texas Tech, while Sammy is currently a junior defensive back for the Red Raiders.

HARRISON HANNA
Asst. Director for Operations &
Recruiting
Third Season
Baylor '17, '20

Harrison Hanna enters his third season on the Texas Tech football staff where he serves as an assistant director for team operations and recruiting.

In his role, Hanna is instrumental in the day-to-day functions inside the football program, assisting not only with team travel but also roster management, student-athlete housing, Texas Tech's analytical research and its continued relationship with the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA). On the recruiting front, Hanna teams with Quintin Jordan in helping each new Red Raider through the enrollment process and eventual arrival on campus.
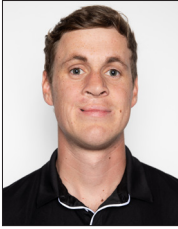
Hanna was among the first hires by head coach Joey McGuire after accepting the Texas Tech position as the two previously worked together at Baylor. Hanna's tenure in Waco spanned nearly a decade as he spent four seasons as a student equipment manager (2013-17) before being hired as a graduate assistant in May 2017 and then to a full-time role a year later.

Hanna was the head equipment manager for each of his final three seasons at Baylor (2019-21) where he coordinated the day-to-day operations of ensuring 100-plus coaches and student-athletes were properly outfitted. Additionally, he also assisted in the day-to-day football operations by advancing road travel, monitoring the CoachComm communications system during each game and contributing to recruiting weekends, among other duties.

Hanna has two degrees from Baylor as he earned his bachelor's in media business with a minor in political science in May 2017. He added a master's in sports management from the university in August 2020 prior to his hire at Texas Tech.

Hanna, a native of Houston, and his wife, the former Brooke Bolfing, were married in July 2022. The couple welcomed their first child, Stetson, in September 2023.

SUPPORT STAFF

SEAN KENNEY
Director of Scouting
Third Season
Alabama '20, '21

Sean Kenney enters his third season on the Texas Tech personnel staff and his second in the role of Director of Scouting where he assists general manager James Blanchard in identifying prospective student-athletes.

Texas Tech signed its first top-25 class in more than a decade during Kenney's first full year on staff, ranking as high as No. 23 nationally thanks to a focus on identifying and landing top prospects in the state of Texas. The Red Raiders followed with another top-25 class in 2024 that ranked as the highest-rated class in the Big 12 Conference. Kenney arrived at Texas Tech in January 2022 as Blanchard and head coach Joey McGuire were turning their focus directly on the 2023 class.

Prior to joining the Texas Tech staff, Kenney was a recruiting specialist for the Alabama football program where he assisted in all areas of the Crimson Tide's personnel operation. As part of his duties, Kenney assisted with on-campus visits for future student-athletes, but was also responsible for creating travel plans for coaches and team personnel, updating the Alabama recruiting database and preparing scouting reports.

Alabama regularly signed a top-five recruiting class throughout Kenney's tenure in Tuscaloosa as the Crimson Tide went on to win two College Football Playoff National Championships during that span as well as four SEC titles. The Crimson Tide appeared in the College Football Playoff in all but one of Kenney's six seasons on staff.

In addition to his time at Alabama, Kenney also attended the prestigious Phil Savage Scout School in 2019, one of the top clinics in the country for prospective college and professional scouts. The school, which focuses on learning NFL team rating scales and recruiting best practices, is led by Savage, a longtime NFL executive and general manager.

Kenney earned his bachelor's degree from Alabama in commerce and business administration in 2020 and then his master's in hospitality management with a concentration in sports hospitality in 2021.

KATE EBERHARDT
Director of Recruiting
Operations
Fourth Season
Houston Baptist '18

Kate Eberhardt enters her fourth season on the Texas Tech staff where she serves as Director of Recruiting Operations. Eberhardt (formerly Shealy) has been instrumental in helping the Red Raiders land consecutive top-25 recruiting classes, planning and executing not only coaches' travel but also that of prospective student-athletes.

Eberhardt arrived in Lubbock prior to the 2021 season following two-plus years at East Carolina where she was responsible for many of the behind-the-scenes aspects of the Pirates' recruiting operation. She assisted with budget management and recruiting-related travel support while at East Carolina, many of the same duties she has with the Red Raiders.

In addition to her recruiting duties, Eberhardt also assisted with the operation needs for the football program while at East Carolina, which included the coordination of home and road game logistics such as meals and facility preparation.

Prior to joining the Pirates, Eberhardt was a gameday events manager for the Division of Student Affairs at Clemson during the 2018 football season. That position followed successive summer stints as an administrative staff assistant for both the Tigers' player development efforts and Dabo Swinney camps.

Eberhardt earned her bachelor's degree in kinesiology/sports management from Houston Baptist in May 2018. She spent four years assisting the Huskies football staff with recruiting and operations support as an undergraduate beginning in 2014 under her father Vic Shealy, who was named Houston Baptist's first-ever head coach only two years earlier.

Eberhardt, a native of Houston, married her husband, Alex, in March 2024.

PRESLEE QUISENBERRY
Director of On-Campus
Recruiting
Third Season
Texas Tech '22

Preslee Quisenberry enters her third season as a member of the Texas Tech football staff as she serves as Director of On-Campus Recruiting.

In her role, Quisenberry organizes and executes many of the behind-the-scenes aspects of Texas Tech's recruiting operation, planning the accommodations, meals, meetings, tours and activities for prospective student-athletes visiting campus. She also helps oversee the recruiting functions around each home football game and is the staff liaison to each Red Raiders' parents once they reach campus.

The position is a familiar one for Quisenberry, who served as a student assistant in the Texas Tech football office for three years prior to being hired full time by head coach Joey McGuire upon graduation. During that time, Quisenberry was essential to Texas Tech's recruiting operation, serving as the point person for prospective student-athlete visits throughout the 2021 season, a role she continued under McGuire.

In addition to her role as a student assistant in the football office, Quisenberry was a member of President's Select for three years and also interned with the Texas Tech athletics communications office each of her final three semesters.

Quisenberry, like many on the Texas Tech staff, has ties to the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) as her father, Chad Quisenberry, recently retired as the Athletics Director at Devine High School near San Antonio. He was previously the head coach of the Warhorses for 13 seasons as part of 25-plus years with the school district.

Quisenberry earned her undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University in May 2022, graduating summa cum laude in only three years as a public relations and strategic communication major.

WESLEY HARWELL
Asst. Director of Scouting
First Season
Texas Tech '23

Wesley Harwell is in his first season as a member of the Texas Tech personnel staff where he serves as an assistant director for scouting.

In his role, Harwell assists with all areas of Texas Tech's recruiting operation, namely in the identifying of potential student-athletes with general manager James Blanchard. Harwell and Director of Scouting Sean Kenney pour of hours of film weekly, assisting Blanchard and Director of Player Personnel Brian Nance in the early stages of the recruiting process.

This is Harwell's first full-time position as he was previously a recruiting assistant at Nebraska during the 2023 season. The Huskers, who share many ties to the Texas Tech coaching staff, ranked as high as No. 16 nationally for the 2024 recruiting class.

A native of Waco, Texas, Harwell graduated from Bosqueville High School before later earning his bachelor's degree in University Studies from Texas Tech.

SHELBY SAUL
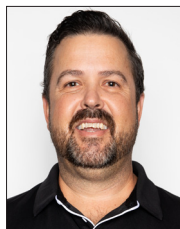On-Campus Recruiting Coord.
First Season
Texas Tech '23

Shelby Saul enters her first season on the Texas Tech personnel staff as an on-campus recruiting coordinator.

Saul, a recent Texas Tech graduate, will assist in all areas of Texas Tech's recruiting operation, namely assisting in the planning and execution of campus visits by prospective student-athletes.

Saul is no stranger to the Texas Tech personnel department as she served as a student assistant throughout her undergraduate studies and again during the 2023 season as a graduate student assistant. During this time, Saul regularly led campus tours and was part of Texas Tech's recruiting weekends.

Saul earned her bachelor's degree in sports management from Texas Tech in 2023. She is a second-generation Red Raider as her father is four-time All-Southwest Conference defensive back Tracy Saul.

SUPPORT STAFF

ZANE PERRY
Asst. Athletics Director
Equipment Operations
25th Season
Texas Tech '05

Zane Perry enters his 25th season working with the Texas Tech football program and fourth in the role of Assistant Athletics Director for Equipment Operations.

Perry, a Lubbock native, joined the full-time equipment staff after graduating from Texas Tech with a degree in exercise and sport science in 2005. During his tenure as a student equipment manager, Perry served as an NFL intern for two summer camps for the Carolina Panthers equipment staff. After his graduation from Monterey High School in 1999, Perry received a scholarship to join the student equipment staff with the Texas Tech football program.
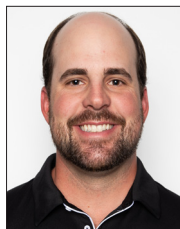
During his 25 seasons on the Red Raider sideline, Perry has risen from a student manager to assistant equipment manager all the way to the head football equipment manager and now his current role.

Perry oversees a staff of six full-time equipment managers as well as numerous student managers who work directly with each of Texas Tech's athletics programs. He is the point-person for Texas Tech's new apparel provider in adidas, managing all equipment requests as well as uniform designs specifically for the Red Raider football program. Perry and his team worked alongside adidas in quickly designing Texas Tech's uniforms for this season, giving the Red Raiders a modern look that also respects many historical elements.

Perry was promoted to Director of Equipment Operations in 2018 after previously serving over a decade as the Red Raiders' head football equipment manager. This past spring, Perry was voted as the 2024 Knight-Pickard District 7 Equipment Manager of the Year.

Perry and his wife, Erica, have two daughters, Presley and Finlay, and a son, Walker.

CAYMAN ANCELL
Head Equipment Manager
Eighth Season
Texas Tech '16

Cayman Ancell enters his eighth season with the Texas Tech football program and his fourth as the head equipment manager for the Red Raiders.

Ancell, a Lubbock native, was promoted to his current position following the 2020 season from his role as an assistant equipment manager. He is responsible for the equipment of all football student-athletes and making sure each player is properly equipped.

Ancell's other responsibilities include issuing all protective and workout gear, preparation of team uniforms, ordering of all team gear including helmets, shoulder pads and other equipment such as adidas apparel. He also oversees the issuing of practice and game clothing for coaches, full-time staff and student staff and making sure the equipment is loaded in advance of away games and bowl games.

Prior to being named to Texas Tech's full-time equipment staff, Ancell was a student manager for two seasons beginning with the 2015 campaign. He was hired as an assistant equipment manager shortly after earning his bachelor's degree in sports management from Texas Tech in December 2016.

In addition to his duties at Texas Tech, Ancell has worked on the professional level, serving a summer internship with the Miami Dolphins during its 2016 training camps.

Ancell and his wife, Kayla, were married in July 2020.

ROGER LIRA
Asst. Equipment Manager
Ninth Season
Texas Tech '13, '15

The 2024 football season will mark Roger Lira's ninth on the Texas Tech sidelines as an assistant equipment manager. This is Lira's second stint on the Texas Tech after returning to the equipment staff in 2021.
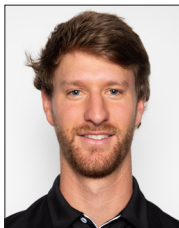
Lira assists with all aspects of Texas Tech's equipment operations, including issuing all official adidas apparel and helping coordinate headset communications on gameday. He is also part of the advance team that prepares the Red Raiders' arrival for any road trip. Lira also oversees the equipment operations for the softball program.

Lira has risen from a student assistant to graduate assistant to a full-time role in his decade-plus on the equipment staff. Lira began his tenure at Texas Tech as a student assistant prior to the 2009 season. He was tabbed a graduate assistant in 2013 and then was hired to a full-time role the following season.

In between his two stints, Lira was an assistant coach and teacher at nearby Brownfield High School from 2018 until his return prior to spring practices in 2021. Lira, who was also the career and technical education (CTE) department head, oversaw the linebackers room while with the Cubs and was the offensive coordinator during his final season. He also assisted with the Brownfield basketball and track and field programs over his nearly three years.

Lira, a native of nearby Shallowater, earned his bachelor's degree in exercise and sports science and a minor in secondary education from Texas Tech in 2013. He added a master's in instructional and educational technology in 2015.

AUSTIN NETTLES
Asst. Equipment Manager
Second Season
Texas Tech '20

Austin Nettles enters his second season as an assistant equipment manager for the Red Raider football program.

In his role, Nettles assists with the daily equipment upkeep of more than 100 football student-athletes, issuing all protective and workout gear and helping oversee the weekly packing of the equipment truck for road games. He also oversees all the equipment needs for the Red Raider soccer program.

Nettles was a student equipment manager for the Red Raider football program as an undergraduate student. He later served as an equipment intern for the Dallas Cowboys over the course of the 2020-22 seasons and was the home clubhouse attendance and equipment manager for the Texas Rangers for the 2021-22 campaigns.

Nettles, a native of Cypress, Texas, earned his degree from Texas Tech in 2020, graduating magna cum laude in sports management. He is certified through the Athletic Equipment Managers Association (AEMA).

ERIC GERALD
Director of Video
Ninth Season
Texas Tech '15

Eric Gerald enters his ninth season with the Texas Tech athletics department and his second in the role of Director of Football Video.

Gerald oversees all the video needs for the Texas Tech coaching staff, including filming and editing practice and game film in addition to breaking down opponent film. He previously served as a video coordinator for the Red Raider football program for the previous seven seasons prior to his promotion.

Gerald was a student assistant in the Texas Tech sports broadcasting department throughout his time as an undergraduate student. He was a key student assistant for the football team video staff, traveling to many road games, while also contributing to video board and live television coverage during both basketball and baseball season.

Prior to rejoining the athletics department, Gerald was a video journalist for KCBD-TV in Lubbock where he assisted in both news and sports coverage. It was

SUPPORT STAFF

his first full-time position after graduating from Texas Tech in December of 2015 with a degree in electronic media and communications.

Gerald was an offensive lineman for Coronado High School in his hometown of El Paso. He also got his start in creating highlights during that time, too, as he assisted the Coronado staff with coaches video.

Gerald and his wife, the former Katlyn Cook, were married in June 2022.

Jacob Chavarria enters his third season as a full-time member of the Texas Tech video staff and his second in the role of video coordinator.

Chavarria is no stranger to the Texas Tech video staff as he was a student assistant from 2018-21 before being hired as a post-grad intern prior to the 2022 season. He was promoted to his current role ahead of the 2023 season.

In his role, Chavarria assists Director of Football Video Eric Gerald in overseeing all the video needs for the Red Raider coaching staff, namely the filming and editing of practice and game film. Through its partnership with Catapult, Chavarria and the Red Raider video staff are able to ensure video breakdowns are available shortly after each practice and game.

JACOB CHAVARRIA
Video Coordinator
Third Season
Texas Tech '22, '24

Chavarria, a native of nearby Floydada, earned his bachelor's degree in creative media industries from Texas Tech in 2022 and added his master's in mass communications following the 2024 spring semester.

Ben Brown is in his first season on the Texas Tech staff as an assistant video coordinator where he helps facilitate all the video needs for the Red Raider coaching staff and student-athletes.

Brown arrives at Texas Tech following two seasons in the Southeastern Conference as he was a football video assistant at Auburn in 2022 and was an assistant video coordinator at Texas A&M in 2013.

Brown began his career at his alma mater, serving as the football video coordinator at Tarleton State over the course of the 2018-21 seasons. His tenure coincided with Tarleton State's transition to the NCAA FCS level as the Texans went 5-3 during its spring 2021 season and then

BEN BROWN
Asst. Video Coordinator
First Season
Tarleton State '21, '22

6-5 that next fall. He was also with the Texans during their final two seasons at the NCAA Division II ranks where Tarleton State recorded back-to-back undefeated regular seasons and captured the Lone Star Conference title.

Brown, a native of Troy, Texas, earned his bachelor's degree in kinesiology and exercise science from Tarleton State in 2021. He added his master's in sport administration from the university a year later.

Hannah Petersen enters her third season on the Texas Tech football staff where she oversees the nutritional needs for more than 100 football student-athletes.

Prior to joining the Red Raider football program, Petersen was an assistant sports dietitian at Stanford where she assisted nutrition care for 10 varsity programs, providing pre- and post-game meal recommendations and in-game nutrition facilitation. In addition, she oversaw fueling station operations, tracked the department's nutrition budget operations, while managing five interns and over 10 volunteers.

HANNAH PETERSEN
Asst. Athletics Director
Head Football Dietitian
Third Season
Alabama '19, Baylor '20

Petersen's ties to the state Texas come from her experience at Baylor where she was the performance nutrition assistant, beginning in August 2020. There, she developed and implemented individualized team menus, performed DXA scans and analysis of fat free muscle,

body fat trends and bone density. Petersen also split her time from athletics as an adjunct professor for Baylor's Department of Human Sciences and Design.

A native of Minnesota, Petersen received her undergraduate degree from Alabama in Human Environmental Sciences before obtaining her master's degree from Baylor in Nutritional Sciences.

Gentry Hicks enters her second season as a full-time member of the Texas Tech sports nutrition staff as an assistant football dietitian.

In her role, Hicks and head football dietitian Hannah Petersen oversee the nutritional needs for more than 100 football student-athletes, planning out team meals while assisting with in-game and practice fueling. Additionally, Hicks helps guide each Red Raider during the offseason to target weights through proper nutrition.

Hicks is no stranger around the football program as she previously served as a fueling station intern for the 2019-20 seasons as an undergraduate student. She rejoined the program as a master's dietetic intern prior to the 2022 football season.

GENTRY HICKS
Assistant Football Dietitian
Second Season
Texas Tech '20, '22

Hicks, a Lubbock native, has two degrees from Texas Tech University, earning a bachelor's in nutritional sciences and dietetics in 2020 before adding a master's of science in nutrition and dietetics with a concentration in sports dietetics in 2022.

In two short seasons, Joey McGuire has planted his flag throughout the state of Texas, appearing at countless events over the course of a year on behalf of the Texas Tech football program. The person largely responsible for many of these visits is none other than Lesha Weatherford.

Weatherford, the executive assistant to the head coach, handles many of the behind-the-scenes aspects of the Red Raider football program, not only for McGuire but for each of Texas Tech's assistant coaches and support staff. This includes not only public appearances for McGuire but also recruiting travel and daily organization of the football offices.

LESHA WEATHERFORD
Executive Asst. to Head Coach
Third Season

Additionally, Weatherford assists annually with the popular Women Behind the Brand event that has now sold out in consecutive years. She is also a liaison to the spouses of the football staff, organizing numerous events and pregame festivities annually for a program that boasts more than 30 full-time employees.

Weatherford joined the Red Raider football program shortly after McGuire's hire in November 2022 after previously serving as the executive assistant to the Deputy Athletics Director.

Weatherford, who is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in human resource development from Texas Tech, resides in Lubbock with her husband, Brent, and their daughter, Ellison.

Aaron Tebo joined the Texas Tech athletics department in April 2022 where he serves as an Associate Athletics Director and the Executive Director for Academic Excellence as well as the sport supervisor for the Red Raider men's golf program.

In his role, Tebo leads the day-to-day operations of the Marsha Sharp Center for Student-Athletes and the academic progress of Texas Tech's more than 400 student-athletes across all sports. He oversees all departmental awards and scholarships and serves as departmental liaison for the Office of Student Conduct, Office of International Affairs, and IT/Technology.

AARON TEBO
Associate A.D./Academics
Third Season
Nebraska '07

Additionally, Tebo is the academic advisor for the men's track and field team and a member of the Marsha Sharp Center for Student-Athletes Executive and Leadership Teams.

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A seasoned administrator of 14-plus years with supervisory, budget, policy creation, and implementation experience prior to his arrival at Texas Tech, Tebo was named in August 2021 the Assistant Athletic Director for Academic Services at fellow Big 12 member Baylor. Within that role, he served as the secondary sport administrator for the women's basketball team and as a member of the Student-Athlete Center for Excellence Leadership Team. He also served as the academic coach for the men's and women's basketball, soccer, and men's golf teams.

In December 2016, Tebo was named Director of Academic Services at Baylor. Within this role, Tebo had full academic oversight of the women's basketball, women's soccer, men's golf and women's tennis teams. Prior to being named Director of Academic Services, Tebo was the Academic Advisor for the football (defense) and men's golf programs at Baylor. He previously served in that role from May 2011 to December 2016.

Before his arrival to Baylor, Tebo served as the academic counselor for the football and women's softball teams at Florida State. He began his career at Florida State in August 2011 as an assistant academic counselor, eventually working his way into his full-time role there.

Tebo is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he received his undergraduate degree in business marketing. He completed his graduate work at the University of Oklahoma with a masters in adult and higher education with a concentration in intercollegiate athletics administration.

While at Oklahoma, he also served as a graduate assistant and the football academic support team leader within the Student-Athlete Academic Services department. He also served a summer working at the University of Nebraska athletics department as the football summer bridge program coordinator.

Tebo and his wife, Shannon (TTU College of Health and Human Sciences, Director of Advising & Retention), are parents to three sons: Miller, Jones, and Foster.

MARISSA EDWARDS
Assistant A.D./Academics
Second Season
Colorado State '09
Fresno State '12

Marissa Edwards enters her second season as an Assistant Athletics Director in the Marsha Sharp Center for Student-Athletes where she oversees the academic progress for the more than 100 student-athletes in the Red Raider football program.

The Red Raiders concluded the spring semester with a 3.14 cumulative GPA in their first full academic year with Edwards, who arrived at Texas Tech shortly before the 2023 season following two years in a similar role at UTSA. It marked one of the highest GPA marks in program history.

Edwards joined the UTSA staff after previously serving for seven years in various positions at Big 12 member Kansas State. She began her tenure with the Wildcats as an academic counselor, working with the volleyball, men's and women's track and field, cross country and rowing programs from 2015-19, before being promoted to director of football academics in 2019.

While working with the K-State football program, Edwards helped the Wildcats to the highest semester GPA in program history (3.406), also sporting an APR score of .994 for the 2019-20 athletics season. K-State football ranked first in the Big 12 Conference with a GSR score of 91 and an FGR score of 74 in 2019-20. She also helped lead the men's track & field program to the highest semester GPA in program history in the spring of 2017 (3.278).

Edwards was an advisor for K-State's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee from 2017-21, helping manage the end-of-year awards show for the department, organizing a Hurricane Harvey relief drive that raised over 46,000 pounds of donations, coordinated a National Girls and Women in Sports Day for over 300 girls in the community and more 70 female student-athletes and helped lead 'Cats Across Continents,' a service abroad trip to build a multipurpose sports court in partnership with Courts for Kids.

She was honored in June of 2020 with the N4A Professional Excellence Award by the National Association of Academic and Student-Athlete Development professionals. In June of 2021, she began a three-year term on the N4A Board of Directors as the Region IV Director and is now in the first year of a two-year term as the board's parliamentarian.

Edwards is an active member of the the of the Women Leaders in College Sports since 2016 and was on the leadership committee for a pair of seasons for the Women of K-State organization.

Before joining the Wildcats staff, Edwards worked as the assistant counselor for Cincinnati's student-athlete support services from 2014-15, working as the lead academic coach for football and men's basketball. She opened her athletics career at Ohio University as the assistant academic advisor and learning specialist in the department of NCAA eligibility and student-athlete S\success.

Edwards, who competed in water polo as an undergraduate student-athlete, earned her bachelor's of science in health and exercise science from Colorado State in 2009. She later earned her master's degree in sports administration from Fresno State in 2012. Edwards, a native of Hanford, California, is engaged to Troy Tidwell.

MARGOT KESSLER
Asst. Academic Advisor
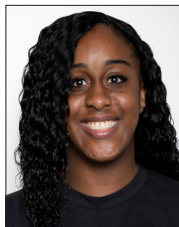Fourth Season
Florida Gulf Coast '19, FAU '21

Margot Kessler joined the Texas Tech athletics department in January 2021 as an academic advisor, working with the Red Raider football program.

The 2024 campaign will be Kessler's fourth football season with the Red Raiders, who have excelled in the classroom throughout her tenure on staff. The Texas Tech football program boasted a 3.13 team GPA for the 2022 fall semester, its highest in school history.

Prior to Texas Tech, Kessler served as an assistant academic counselor for Florida Atlantic's football team. In that role, Kessler monitored the academic progress of assigned student-athletes, assisted in coordinating support services to football student-athletes, and taught "The Learning Community Experience" course to freshmen student-athletes.

The Boca Raton, Florida native began her professional career at Florida Atlantic after earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in communication from Florida Gulf Coast University where she was a member of the swimming and diving team. During her time at a student-athlete, she served as a captain for two years and helped guide the Eagles to three conference titles.

Kessler earned her master's degree in higher education leadership from FAU in May 2021.

DASNII CURTIS
Asst. Academic Advisor
Second Season
Fayetteville State '13
University of the Rockies '15

Dasnii Curtis joined the Texas Tech athletics department in August 2023 as an assistant academic advisor, working specifically with the Red Raider football program.

Curtis arrived at Texas Tech ahead of the 2023 season after spending two years as the Director of Academic Success at Richmond where she oversaw the academic support for football as well as men's and women's tennis while with the Spiders. The Red Raiders concluded the spring semester with a 3.14 cumulative GPA in Curtis' first full year on staff.

Curtis began her professional career in athletics in 2017, serving as a part-time academic advisor at Campbell University and its football program. She elevated to a full-time role shortly after where she provided academic support and subject tutoring primarily for football, while also overseeing the academic progress for the women's basketball program until her departure for Richmond in 2022.

Prior to Campbell, Curtis was a student-athlete, herself, competing in basketball and cross country at Fayetteville State University (N.C.) where she earned her undergraduate degree in 2013. She later added a master's degree in sports and performance psychology from the University of the Rockies in 2015.

Outside of her professional duties, Curtis has coached alongside her mother as an assistant director for the Starlings-Fayetteville Volleyball Club. She was the head coach for the under-18 program and served as an assistant coach for the under-14 and under-12 teams for two years. Curtis was born in Austin, Texas, and spent a great deal of her life between San Antonio, Texas, and Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Additionally, Curtis also co-authored in a book titled, Women Who Lead in Sports, that was published in March 2024. She has also served on a Head to Speech panel that discussed concussion protocol in collegiate athletics.

SPORTS MEDICINE

GRANT STOVALL
Senior Associate AD
10th Season
Texas Tech '94, '98

Grant Stovall, a well-respected athletic trainer and administrator, enters his 10th year as Senior Associate Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Health and Well-Being at Texas Tech University, assuming the position prior to the 2013-14 academic year.

Stovall leads the sports medicine unit at Texas Tech, serving as both the primary administrator and a hands-on athletic trainer. He added additional responsibilities in Feb. 2021 as the primary administrator for the athletics department's strength and conditioning and nutrition units.

Stovall joined the athletics department after spending nine years as Director of Clinical Services at Lubbock Sports Medicine. While at LSM, he worked alongside numerous orthopedic surgeons that provide care for the 400-plus student-athletes at Texas Tech. He was in charge of day-to-day operations of the clinic while managing the durable medical bracing business, sports medicine outreach contracts and marketing.

Prior to joining Lubbock Sports Medicine, Stovall spent six years as the Sports Medicine Manager at Covenant Health Systems where he oversaw the day-to-day operations of the sports medicine department.

His experience in athletic training included two clinical stops while he was pursuing his master's degree in physical therapy at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

From 1994-98, he served as an athletic trainer at Rehability Sports Medicine Network and at Methodist Hospital SportsCare. During that time he provided coverage as an athletics trainer at a number of area high schools.

Stovall earned a Bachelor of Science from Texas Tech in 1994 and a Master of Physical Therapy from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in 1998. He holds athletic training certifications from the Texas Advisory Board of Athletics Trainers, the NATA Board of Certification as well as the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

Stovall lives in Lubbock with his wife, Denise. They have a daughter, Kassidee, and a son, Kooper.

DR. KEVIN CRAWFORD
Medical Director / Head
Orthopedic Surgeon
18th Season

Lubbock has always been home for Dr. Kevin Crawford. He attended Monterey High School, received his Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. After his Orthopedic Surgery Residency, he returned to Lubbock to begin his career.

After a successful start to his practice he accepted an invitation to do a Sports Medicine Fellowship with the prestigious Steadman-Hawkins Clinic in Vail, Colorado.

During his year-long fellowship, he received advanced training in arthroscopic knee and shoulder surgery. In 2006, Dr. Crawford was asked to serve as a U.S. Ski and U.S. Snowboard Team Physician. Since that time, he has traveled the world to care for the U.S. athletes.

Dr. Crawford currently oversees the Sports Medicine Department at Texas Tech. He has been involved with Texas Tech Athletics since 2005. He is in private practice at Lubbock Sports Medicine where he serves as Team Physician for several local high schools and area colleges.

Dr. Crawford and his wife, Maura, have three children, Kylie, Colin, and Cadan.

DR. MICHAEL PHY
Head Team Physician
16th Season

Dr. Michael Phy enters his 16th season serving as Head Team Physician with the Texas Tech football team.

Dr. Phy is an Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC). He is also the Chief of General Medicine and the Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency.

Dr. Phy graduated from Dartmouth College where he played four seasons as a wide receiver for the football team. He then completed medical school at the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center graduating with honors.

Dr. Phy completed his residency in Internal Medicine at TTUHSC in Lubbock and served as Chief Resident in 2012. He was selected as the first fellow in Hospital Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and worked as faculty there for two years. In addition to providing sports medicine coverage for the Texas Tech football and baseball programs, Dr. Phy's practice and research interests center on perioperative medicine and care of the hospitalized patient. He is board certified in internal medicine.

Dr. Phy grew up in San Antonio and graduated from James Madison High School. He is married to Dr. Jennifer Phy and they have a son, Tyler, and a daughter, Sara.

MICHAEL RAMIREZ
Associate A.D.
Head Athletic Trainer
Seventh Season

Michael Ramirez enters his seventh season on the Texas Tech Sports Medicine staff and his first in the role of Associate Athletics Director and head football athletic trainer.

Ramirez oversees the round-the-clock care of more than 100 student-athletes in the Football Training Facility. He directs a staff of three additional athletic trainers who work with team doctors to provide the most up-to-date prevention, treatment and rehabilitation for football student-athletes.

Ramirez joined the athletics department in 2017 as an assistant athletic trainer with the football program before being promoted to associate athletic trainer a year later. In addition to his role as head football athletic trainer, he also oversees the sports medicine needs for both the men's and women's golf programs.

During his time at Texas Tech, Ramirez has served as a supervisor of undergraduate and master's athletic training students with the football program as well as the athletics department's relationship with Gatorade.

Ramirez also coordinated the athletics department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, establishing protocols across all sports for testing procedures in compliance with NCAA and Big 12 guidelines as well as securing appropriate testing materials. In response, Ramirez received the Director of Athletics Award of Excellence at Texas Tech's end-of-year department banquet in 2021.

Prior to Texas Tech, Ramirez was the head athletic trainer for Desert Ridge High School in Arizona from 2015-17 and was an athletic trainer for Deer Park High School in Texas from 2013-15. He was previously an athletic training intern for the Houston Texans in the NFL from 2011-13.

Ramirez is a graduate of Arizona State with a bachelor of science degree in kinesiology (2009) as well as the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center where he earned his master's in athletic training in 2011. He and his wife, Lizzy, reside in Lubbock with their children, Rory and Banks.

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COACHING STAFF

SPORTS MEDICINE

STEVE LAPSO
Assistant Athletic Trainer
Fourth Season
Toledo '14, Kent State '16

Steve Lapso joined the Texas Tech sports medicine staff in June 2021 as an assistant athletic trainer with the Red Raider football program.

This will be Lapso's fourth season assisting with the medical care of more than 100 football student-athletes in the football program as well as the rehabilitation and return-to-play procedures. Lapso also helps coordinate Texas Tech's arrival to each road venue by coordinator team medical travel and advancing each trip.

Lapso arrived at Texas Tech following three seasons in a similar position at Youngstown State University. He was previously an athletic training intern at Western Kentucky during the 2017 season and at Central Michigan in 2016. He received his first full-time experience as a graduate assistant, working with the football and wrestling programs at Kent State over the course of the 2014-15 seasons.

Lapso earned his bachelor's in athletic training, graduating magna cum laude from the University of Toledo in 2014. He added his master's in exercise physiology from Kent State in 2016.

ERIKA ROWE
Assistant Athletic Trainer
Second Season
Florida '20, Baylor '22

Erika Rowe enters her second season as an assistant athletic trainer on the Texas Tech sports medicine staff.

Rowe (formerly Dean) is part of a four-person athletic training staff that manages the round-the-clock healthcare of more than 100 student-athletes in the Red Raider football program. This includes treatment and rehabilitation in consultation with Texas Tech's team doctors and head athletic trainer Michael Ramirez.

Prior to joining the Texas Tech staff, Rowe began her professional career at Baylor as a graduate assistant athletic trainer from 2020-22, assisting with the medical care for its football and women's golf student-athletes. From there, she moved to Denver and served as a seasonal intern athletic trainer with the Denver Broncos in the NFL for the 2022 season.

A native of Clearwater, Florida, Rowe earned her bachelor's degree in athletic training from the University of Florida in 2020 and added her master's in sport pedagogy from Baylor in 2022.

Rowe and her husband, Dylan, were married in May 2024. Dylan Rowe is also an athletic trainer on the Texas Tech sports medicine staff, working with the men's and women's tennis programs.

JORDAN SHIMODA
Associate Athletic Trainer
Second Season
SMU '16, Arkansas '18

Jordan Shimoda joined the Texas Tech sports medicine staff in July 2023 as an associate athletic trainer, working directly with the Red Raider football program.

Shimoda, who arrived at Texas Tech with experience at both the power-four and NFL levels, assists with the round-the-clock healthcare of more than 100 student-athletes, while also helping coordinate rehabilitation in consultation with team doctors and head athletic trainer Michael Ramirez.

Prior to joining the Texas Tech staff, Shimoda spent two seasons as an athletic trainer at Purdue. He also has experience at the collegiate level at Auburn where Shimoda was an athletic training post-grad intern during the 2018 season. Shimoda received his first athletic training opportunity with the Dallas Cowboys where he was an intern from May to September 2017. He moved back to the NFL for the 2019-20 seasons as a seasonal athletic trainer with the New England Patriots organization.

Shimoda earned his bachelor's degree from SMU in 2016 and later added his master's in athletic training from the University of Arkansas in 2018.

Shimoda, a native of Waipahu, Hawaii, and his wife, Gina, were married in February 2022. They are parents to one son, Alohi, who was born in February 2024.

DR. WESTON DURHAM
Asst. A.D. / Psychological
Health & Performance
First Season
LCU '11, '14; Oklahoma St. '23

Weston Durham joined the Texas Tech athletics department in February 2024 as an Assistant Athletics Director for psychological health and performance. In his role, Dr. Durham oversees the staff of two other sport psychologists and is the primary sport psychologist for the Red Raider football program.

The opportunity on the Texas Tech medical staff marks a return to West Texas for Dr. Durham, who was a private practice counselor in Lubbock from 2013-19. Dr. Durham founded his own private practice with a focus on developing empirically supported treatment for athletes and professionals in high-stress professions. During this time, Dr. Durham contracted with various NCAA athletics departments, local sports leagues and national team athletes for consultation services.

Dr. Durham departed West Texas for the Tulsa area where he was a graduate assistant director at the Al Carlozzi Center for Counseling from August 2019 to May 2022. He was also a clinical intern within the Oklahoma State athletics department during that period, his first position embedded within a Division-I athletics department.

Dr. Durham later served a year-long doctoral internship on the sport psychology team at Lehigh University from August 2022 to July 2023. He was tabbed an assistant director for psychological resources soon after at the University of Oklahoma where he helped oversee the mental health and mental performance services to student-athletes.

Dr. Durham earned a bachelor's in exercise science with a sport psychology track from Lubbock Christian University in 2011 and added a master's in counseling psychology in 2014. He completed his doctorate in counseling psychology from Oklahoma State in 2023.

Dr. Durham is a member of the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Association for Applied Sport Psychology.

A native of Kress, Texas, Dr. Durham, and his wife, Kathryn, are parents to two sons, Wyatt and Benny.