

TEXAS LONGHORNS

• *Returning Starters: Offense - 9 Defense - 7* • *2008 Record: 12-1 (7-1)*



Continuing The Dynasty

The 2009 season could be Mack Brown's final year before retiring and handing the job to defensive coordinator Will Muschamp. Keeping that in mind, Texas could be looking to end the Mack Brown era with a bang.

The offensive skill positions are still somewhat cloudy – top receiver Quan Cosby will soon be history, and the running backs have yet to prove they can win any games on their own. Thankfully, the OL will be manned by three seniors (two of them All-Big 12 honorees) and two juniors from tight end to tackle, giving the Longhorns the best looking set of blockers in the conference. Also, receiver Jordan Shipley was granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA for 2009. Shipley's threat as a receiver should keep defenses in check, opening an opportunity for the rushing attack to rise up. Texas should remain a force to be reckoned with in the NCAA as they return 9 starters on offense.

The nation's second-ranked run defense takes a few hits up front, but the trio of senior linebackers (each is a top five UT tackler and the group is led by athletic Iron-man Sergio Kindle) will have their backs. Most defensive problems during the past two seasons have been in the secondary, which really hurts playing in the pass-happy



8 STRAIGHT.

For 8 seasons in a row, Mack Brown has led the Longhorns to at least 10 or more wins in a season. Take this statement to the bank: Make it 9.

Big 12. This group is still young; the returning safeties earned most of their playing time as freshmen. For Texas to climb the BCS/South Division mountain, this whole group will have to improve by leaps and bounds. Mack Brown's team has more talent, but also has more expectations heading into next season in comparison to this past year. They still have the same question marks pertaining to the running backs and pass defense. Luckily Texas has defensive mastermind Will Muschamp

SCHEDULE

Sep. 5 Louisiana-Monroe
Sep. 12 at Wyoming
Sep. 19 UCF
Sep. 26 UTEP
Oct. 10 Colorado
Oct. 17 vs. Oklahoma
Oct. 24 at Missouri
Oct. 31 at Oklahoma State
Nov. 7 Texas Tech
Nov. 14 at Baylor
Nov. 21 Kansas
Nov. 26 Texas A&M

2009 Projection: 11-1 (7-1)

KEY GAME

The Red River Classic will have its first meeting ever in the Dallas Cowboy's brand new stadium. Expect high tensions and high scoring between the teams in one of the best rivalries.

at their disposal to educate a young defense relatively quickly. If someone can emerge in the off-season as a result of Muschamp's teaching, the Longhorns just might take the next step towards a BCS title.

With a relatively weak out of conference schedule, the Longhorns should be able to cruise through the beginning of the year. The true tests of the season will begin after mid-October, with tough matchups against Oklahoma, @ Oklahoma State, and Texas Tech. ♦♦