

TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS



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

Red Raider Uprising '09

Hopefully, higher expectations will not ruin what head coach Mike Leach accomplishes annually in Lubbock. The Red Raiders may not initially be at the same offensive level as they were coming into 2008...what, with only five starters returning.

But, seriously, since when has this made any difference to Leach and his staff and the results they procure from whomever wears the TT uniform? From Kingsbury to Symons to Cumbie to Hodges to Harrell...the QB names change, but the results never do. This time the opportunity is Taylor Potts', an Abilene product that came to Tech ranked as the No. 13 pro-style prep quarterback nationally. He has the prototypical 6-5 frame of a pure passer to fit the Leach mold, and has three years already logged in the system. Team leading rusher Baron Batch returns as a nice running option. But even after this seemingly good news, there is some bad news in Lubbock. Star wideout Michael Crabtree declared for the NFL draft, taking away a key component of the Red Raiders offensive attack. Protecting the QB will be an adventure as well on the left side of the line as all three blockers have departed (Reed and Vasquez named All-Big 12). With only 3 returning starters this season, Texas Tech's new batch of



4,000 & 30

Since 2002, 5 different QB's have thrown for more than 4,000 yards and 30 tds in a season at Texas Tech. Add Taylor Potts and make it 6 quarterbacks.

starters will have to step up.

The best news lies on the defensive side, where 2009 represents maybe the best talent and the most experience Leach has ever had in Lubbock. DE Brandon Williams is a sack machine (11 in '08), and six of the front seven returns in tact. As with most every Big 12 defense comes the problem of fixing the all-important secondary, and Tech is no exception. Both safeties need replaced. The incumbents get tossed into a burning ring of aerial

SCHEDULE

Sep. 5 North Dakota
Sep. 12 Rice
Sep. 26 at Houston
Oct. 3 New Mexico
Oct. 10 Kansas State
Oct. 17 at Nebraska
Oct. 24 Texas A&M
Oct. 31 Kansas
Nov. 7 at Texas
Nov. 14 at Oklahoma State
Nov. 21 Oklahoma
Nov. 28 at Baylor

2009 Projection: 9-3 (6-3)

KEY GAME

Taylor Potts and the Red Raiders offense will be looking for revenge on the Sooner's squad which ruined their BCS title hopes in 2008 with a 65-21 beating on national tv.

fire since most of the heralded Big 12 QBs are back in the mix next season. Just remember, this team has done more in past seasons with less offensive talent than expected.

New faces do not mean any steps back, but it certainly makes the task at hand much more difficult. The month of November will be the ultimate test of TTU's team strength, as they will be playing @Texas, @ Oklahoma State, and against Oklahoma all in a row. ♦♦