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# Mountain West Conference NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE ADDS TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

**Colorado Springs, Colo.** – BYU President Cecil Samuelson, chair of the Mountain West Conference Board of Directors, announced the addition of Texas Christian University as the ninth member of the Mountain West, beginning with the 2005-06 academic year.

“We are all thrilled that TCU will join the Mountain West Conference,” Samuelson said. “There were and are many attractive institutions to the league and TCU is a wonderful fit.”

With an enrollment of 8,066, TCU sponsors 19 varsity sports. The Horned Frog football program has a rich 107-year history. This season, TCU appeared in a school-record sixth consecutive bowl game, making it one of 16 Division I-A programs to play in the post-season each of the last six years. In addition, TCU football has finished in the Top 25 three of the last four seasons.

“Since its inception five years ago, the MWC has established a solid foundation and experienced significant success in both the competitive and administrative arenas,” stated commissioner Craig Thompson. “The addition of TCU enhances an already successful group of member institutions and adds to the MWC’s strength at a time when the structure of Division I-A postseason football is evolving and when the Conference is nearing the end of its current television contract.”

TCU’s addition to the Mountain West renews relationships among the conference’s member institutions. It also solidifies the MWC’s profile within the state of Texas – where, presently, between 10-13 percent of the football and men’s basketball student-athletes in the Conference originate.

“TCU is flattered to have been asked to join the Mountain West,” chancellor Victor Boschini said. “We look forward to competing with their members and getting to know the schools in our new league.”

The Mountain West Conference began with eight members in 1998, addressing a number of configuration issues, and now moves into its next phase of development as the landscape of intercollegiate athletics continues to shift. In 2005-06, MWC membership will include: The United States Air Force Academy, Brigham Young University, Colorado State University, University of New Mexico, University of Nevada – Las Vegas, San Diego State University, Texas Christian University, University of Utah, University of Wyoming.



<b>Location:</b>	Fort Worth, Texas
<b>Founded:</b>	1873
<b>Enrollment:</b>	8,066
<b>University Endowment:</b>	\$910 million
<b>Living Alumni:</b>	60,000
<b>Dallas/Ft. Worth Population:</b>	5,480,000
<b>Television Market Rank:</b>	No. 7
<b>Nickname:</b>	Horned Frogs
<b>Colors:</b>	Purple & White
<b>Web Site:</b>	<a href="http://www.GoFrogs.com">www.GoFrogs.com</a>
<b>President:</b>	Dr. Victor J. Boschini, Jr.
<b>Athletic Director:</b>	Eric Hyman
<b>SWA:</b>	Marcy Girton
<b>Faculty Representative:</b>	Rhonda Hatcher
<b>Football Coach:</b>	Gary Patterson
<b>Men's Basketball Coach:</b>	Neil Dougherty
<b>Women's Basketball Coach:</b>	Jeff Mittie
<b>Volleyball Coach:</b>	Prentice Lewis

#### **Sponsored Sports (19):**

Baseball, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Men's Cross Country, Women's Cross Country, Football, Men's Golf, Women's Golf, Women's Rifle, Women's Soccer, Men's Swimming & Diving, Women's Swimming & Diving, Men's Tennis, Women's Tennis, Men's Indoor Track & Field, Women's Indoor Track & Field, Men's Outdoor Track & Field, Women's Outdoor Track & Field, Women's Volleyball

#### **Notable Sports Alumni:**

Sammy Baugh, Kim Collins, John Drummond, Bob Lilly, Davey O'Brien, Jarvis Patton, Kurt Thomas, LaDainian Tomlinson.

#### **Did You Know:**

The Horned Frogs football program has posted a 21-4 record over the last two seasons, ranking among the Top Seven in Division I-A.

#### **Notable Alumni:**

Betty Buckley, Gordon England, Dan Jenkins, Eddy Bernize Johnson, Bob Schieffer, Tara Wilson.

#### **Academic Notables:**

- TCU's full-time equivalent student to faculty ratio is 15:1.
- TCU is listed in the *U.S. News & World Report* as a "Best College Value."
- The University ranks among the Top 10 doctoral granting institutions in the United States in terms of the percentage of graduates who have studied abroad.
- TCU was among the first coeducational universities in the Southwest.
- TCU business students manage an Educational Investment Fund of more than \$1.7 million.
- The University was the first in the country to offer a fine arts degree in ballet.
- The Ranch Management Program is a unique, internationally recognized agribusiness program.
- The Washington Internship Program provides students with a working experience in our nation's capital.
- TCU students contribute more than 60,000 hours of community service each year to local schools and service agencies.

Following is a Question & Answer with Commissioner Craig Thompson:

**Why did the Mountain West Conference expand?**

*This represents the next phase in the growth and development of the MWC, as the Conference continues to establish the most prominent position possible in the intercollegiate athletics landscape. The addition of TCU enhances an already successful group of member institutions and adds to the MWC's strength at a time when the structure of Division I-A postseason college football is evolving and when the Conference is nearing the end of its current television contract.*

**Is additional expansion on the horizon for the MWC?**

*There will be no active consideration of additional membership for the time being. However, we will continue to monitor the issue and move forward at any time that it is determined to be in the best interest of the MWC to expand.*

**How does the addition of TCU strengthen the Mountain West?**

*TCU is a fine academic institution that boasts a highly-competitive athletic program and possesses long-standing tradition. TCU's mission and values are also a solid fit with the collective and individual philosophies of the Mountain West Conference and its member institutions. More specifically, TCU's addition will enhance the MWC by:*

- *Bringing additional depth and competitive strength to virtually every one of the MWC's 19 championship sports.*
- *Balancing the annual football schedule, so that each member will have four home and four away conference games each year.*
- *Adding the nation's seventh-largest television market to the MWC footprint.*
- *Contributing the PlainsCapital Fort Worth Bowl to the MWC's bowl line-up.*
- *Expanding the MWC's recruiting base as 10-13 percent of current football and men's basketball student-athletes hail from Texas.*

**Explain the MWC's expansion process?**

*Because it was not reacting to external influences, but rather evaluating opportunities, the MWC was in the enviable position of being able to be deliberate and thorough in its evaluation of whether to expand and, if so, by how many and which institutions. That theme drove the process and any temptation to move quickly was resisted. Recent changes in five Presidents and five Athletics Directors within the MWC extended the process, as every effort was made to involve the appropriate constituents. Various timing issues, such as the bowl season and the holidays, combined to push back the timetable.*

**When will TCU become a member of the Mountain West?**

*The Horned Frogs will officially become members of the MWC on July 1, 2005, and begin competition in the conference with the 2005-06 academic year. However, preliminary planning has already begun and now will be accelerated with regard to new schedule formats and other administrative issues. TCU will begin to participate immediately in the MWC governance process and will systematically be transitioned into the Conference infrastructure.*

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