

## Tech's Harrell hassles SMU, 49-9

**UNIVERSITY PARK** – Graham Harrell put up enormous numbers in Monday's season-opening spanking of SMU.

The Texas Tech quarterback and his receivers made it look inevitable.

From bullets to dump passes over the middle that turned into big gains to rainbow passes that hung in the air for ages – they all worked in the Red Raiders' 49-9 victory in front of 26,969 at Ford Stadium.

Four new starters on the offensive line? Three new receivers? Didn't matter.

Harrell, who was hardly touched by the Mustangs, was 44-of-59 for 419 yards and four touchdowns.

"I would not want to face Graham Harrell with that much time," Tech center Shawn Byrnes said.

Receivers Michael Crabtree (106 yards, three touchdowns) and Danny Amendola (career high 149 yards and a touchdown) were unstoppable.

Harrell, who didn't play most of the fourth quarter, set a career high for completions, surpassing the former high of 42 by the end of the third.

"In this offense, you're going to put up big numbers, especially ... if you just get the ball in the playmakers' hands," said Harrell, who also scored on a 1-yard run. "That's what I did a really good job of today. They made plays. The receivers deserve as much credit as I do."

Tech's win was its 12th straight over SMU, which entered the game hoping to show an ESPN audience that its program is on the rise. But the Mustangs couldn't stop Tech in key situations – the Raiders converted 10 of 15 third downs. And SMU's offense, which coach Phil Bennett believed had a chance to keep pace with Tech on the scoreboard, couldn't even muster a touchdown.

"I don't think we played well," Bennett said. "That's my responsibility, and I accept that."

SMU had chances to match Tech's first two touchdowns of the game, but dropped passes and other mistakes made the Mustangs settle for two first-half field goals by Thomas Morstead. Quarterback Justin Willis was 15-of-33 for 138 yards and two interceptions.

"It kills me because I know we can do better than that," he said.

Tech built a 14-6 lead on Harrell's keeper and Amendola's 49-yard scoring play that took advantage of an SMU blitz and a missed tackle. Then, the Raiders moved to put SMU away just before half.

Tech converted on third-and-10 and third-and-8 and capped an 88-yard drive with Harrell finding Crabtree for a 1-yard touchdown to make it 21-6 at half.

SMU's offense looked "off-kilter," Bennett said, in the second half, and Tech piled on four more touchdowns.

"That's what we do at Tech," Harrell said. "We just execute and make plays."

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