

# Harrell, Daniel have gripping resumes

## With different styles, Harrell, Daniel guide two of the nation's most feared offenses

**LUBBOCK** – Texas Tech's Graham Harrell and Missouri's Chase Daniel, two of the nation's top quarterbacks, will face off Saturday in the Big 12's marquee matchup.

The juniors share a common bond: They're homegrown Texans with historic high school careers.

Harrell produced the best season by a Texas high school quarterback as a senior at Ennis in 2003. Daniel led Southlake Carroll to a 16-0 record and Class 5A state title as a senior in 2004.

Since their high school days, Harrell and Daniel have blossomed in spread offenses. The two have been mentioned as Heisman Trophy candidates in a year in which the award is wide open.

"There's no doubt he's a great player," Harrell said of Daniel. "He's a great leader, and he's putting up great numbers right now."

Harrell has led Tech to a 6-1 start and No. 22 ranking, and the Red Raiders have the top offense in the nation at 582 yards per game. Daniel has led Missouri to a 5-1 record and No. 15 ranking, and the Tigers have the nation's fifth-best offense at 533.5 yards per game.

Both have strong arms and make quick decisions. They've posted jaw-dropping numbers this season. Harrell leads the nation with 258 completions, 3,151 passing yards and 31 touchdown passes, and he ranks second in passing efficiency (178.4 quarterback rating). Daniel ranks fifth in the nation with 345.5 passing yards per game and 16th in passing efficiency (148.5).

### High school standouts

Harrell, a coach's son, made his father proud his senior season at Ennis. He posted statistics never seen in Texas high school football.

Harrell set season state records with 4,825 passing yards, 334 completions and 67 touchdown passes. He passed for 573 yards in 2003 against Waxahachie, the fourth-best performance in a game in Texas history. He also passed for seven touchdowns in three games that season.

Harrell finished his prep career as the state's all-time leading passer with 12,532 yards and holds the state record with 167 career touchdown passes, 51 more than Texas quarterback Colt McCoy (Tuscola Jim Ned), who ranks second. Harrell also ranks second with 805 career completions, trailing only Drew Tate (Baytown Lee).

Daniel started at quarterback his last two seasons, leading Carroll to a state runner-up finish in 2003 and a 5A state title in 2004. He was the 5A state player of the year in 2003 and 2004.

As a senior, Daniel passed for 4,672 yards, sixth all-time in state history, and 50 touchdowns, tied for seventh. He also rushed for 1,425 yards and 21 touchdowns. Daniel finished his prep career with 92 touchdown passes, seventh all-time.

### The dual threat vs. the pocket passer

For all their similarities, Harrell and Daniel have strikingly different styles.

Harrell is a pure pocket passer. He has the size of a prototype quarterback, at 6-3, 197 pounds. He rarely scrambles.

"We don't even have a roll-out play," Harrell said.

Missouri's Chase Daniel (left) and Texas Tech's Graham Harrell lead the top two passing offenses in the Big 12.

About the only time Harrell uses his feet to make a play is on a quarterback sneak. He has 19 rushing attempts for minus-31 yards and three touchdowns this season.

Daniel doesn't mind getting his uniform dirty. He'd just as well run with the football as he would throw it. He is built more like a running back at 6-0, 225 pounds. He often breaks the pocket and throws on the run. If a receiver isn't open, however, he'll tuck the football away and charge up field. He has 52 rushing attempts for 187 yards and three touchdowns. He's 186-of-270 passing for 2,073 yards and 16 touchdowns with six interceptions.

### True leaders

Leach said one of the biggest similarities between Harrell and Daniel is their leadership skills.

Leach said he is impressed with how Daniel seems to get the most out of his ability.

"He's an overachiever and a really good leader," Leach said. "It's pretty apparent to me that he studies a lot of film."

Harrell is no stranger to the film room either. Like Daniel, he's a student of the game.

Daniel is gritty and plays with spunk. He'll use fist-pumps to celebrate touchdowns, but he'll also let his teammates know when he's not happy with something.

Daniel also seems to play under control.

"He's a very efficient guy from the standpoint he stays within himself," Leach said. "He knows what he can do and goes out and does it. He doesn't try to do too much or overdo stuff, and I think that's a very strong quality."

Harrell prefers to lead by example. He's been phenomenal this season, going 258-of-347 passing for 3,151 yards this season with 31 touchdown passes and three interceptions.

### Daniel 1, Harrell 0

Judging by the final statistics of last year's Missouri-Texas Tech game, it would be hard to say that Daniel got the best of Harrell.

But Harrell's quick to point out that it wasn't one of his most memorable performances. And the final score told it all.

### Missouri 38, Texas Tech 21.

Harrell finished 39-of-55 passing for 342 yards and three touchdowns but put the Red Raiders in a hole in the second quarter. In a 28-second span, Harrell threw two interceptions that were returned for touchdowns, helping the Tigers jump to a 24-0 lead in Lubbock.

"It was a tough game. We got beat down here in our place because they came in and just outplayed us," Harrell said. "It was kind of a low point in the season."

Harrell helped Tech rally with three consecutive touchdown passes to pull the Red Raiders within a field goal, but Missouri pulled away late.

Daniel finished 15-of-22 passing for 173 yards, one touchdown and one interception. He also had 13 carries for 37 yards.

### MISSOURI QB CHASE DANIEL

**Class:** Junior

**Ht./Wt.:** 6-0, 225

**Style:** Dual threat

**High school:** Southlake Carroll (2005 graduate)

**Chose Missouri over:** Texas A&M, Oklahoma State, Stanford and Maryland.

**Team record:** 5-1, 1-1 in Big 12

2007 stats						
Com-Att	Yd.	TD	INT	Ru.	Yd.	TD
186-270	2,073	16	6	52	187	3

### TEXAS TECH QB GRAHAM HARRELL

**Class:** Junior

**Ht./Wt.:** 6-3, 197

**Style:** Pocket passer

**High school:** Ennis (2004 graduate)

**Chose Tech over:** Georgia, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, North Carolina State, Purdue, Wisconsin and Kansas State.

**Team record:** 6-1, 2-1 in Big 12

2007 stats						
Com-Att	Yd.	TD	INT	Ru.	Yd.	TD
258-347	3,151	31	3	19	-31	3

**No. 22 Texas Tech (6-1, 2-1) at No. 15 Missouri (5-1, 1-1), 2:30 p.m. Saturday (Ch. 8; KHYI-FM 95.3)**

**Dallas Morning News, Brandon George  
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