



# Texas Tech Red Raider Soccer

Media Contact: Matt Dowdy

Office: (806) 742-2770 · Cell: (806) 928-5190 · Email: matthew.dowdy@ttu.edu

## 2008 Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
8/22	Lamar	W, 4-0
8/29	Colorado*	L, 2-3
8/31	at Texas-San Antonio	W, 3-0
9/5	at Middle Tennessee	T, 1-1 (2OT)
9/7	vs. Alabama A&M^	W, 5-0
9/12	Arizona	L, 1-2
9/14	Northwestern State	W, 5-1
9/18	Oral Roberts	W, 4-0
9/26	at Oklahoma State*	L, 1-5
9/28	Oklahoma*	W, 2-1 (2OT)
10/3	at Kansas*	L, 0-2
10/5	at Missouri*	L, 0-2
10/10	Baylor*	W, 2-1 (2OT)
10/12	Texas*	L, 0-1
10/17	at Iowa State*	W, 2-0
10/19	at Nebraska*	L, 0-3
10/24	Texas A&M*	L, 0-1
10/26	TCU	L, 2-3
11/5-9	Big 12 Championship	TBA
11/14-16	NCAA First & Second Rounds	TBA
11/21-23	NCAA Third Round	TBA
11/28-30	NCAA Fourth Round	TBA
12/5-7	NCAA College Cup	TBA

^ at Murfreesboro, Tenn.



Tina Rincon

## 2008 BIG 12 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

**No. 8 Texas Tech vs. No. 1 Oklahoma State**  
**Wednesday, November 5 · Blossom Soccer Stadium**  
**San Antonio, Texas**

### SERIES INFORMATION

**Overall:** OSU Leads 7-4-1  
**2008 Meeting:** OSU 3-0 Win  
**Last Tech Win:** Tech, 1-0, 2007  
**Last OSU Win:** OSU, 5-1, 2008  
**Neutral Matches:** First Match  
**Series Streak:** OSU has won one straight



### MEDIA INFORMATION

The Big 12 Conference will carry each match of the Big 12 Championship live in its entirety on its website, [www.big12sports.com](http://www.big12sports.com). Sunday's championship match will also be carried live on Fox Sports Net.

### STARTING OFF...

Texas Tech returns to the Big 12 Championship in consecutive seasons for the first time in school history, facing Oklahoma State Wed., Nov. 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the Blossom Soccer Stadium in San Antonio, Texas.

### ON THE AIR

The Big 12 will stream each match leading up to Sunday's finale live on its website, [www.big12sports.com](http://www.big12sports.com) with Armen Williams calling the action. The conference will also have live stats available. Both features will be free.

Sunday's championship match will be broadcast live over Fox Sports Net. Fox Soccer Channel will reair the match on tape daily at a time to be determined.

### SCOUTING OKLAHOMA STATE

The Big 12 Conference regular season champions, Oklahoma State ended the regular season winning six of its last seven match, finishing 15-1-2 overall and 6-1-2 in conference. The Cowgirls only loss came Oct. 3 when then-ranked No. 7 Texas A&M took a 2-1 win in College Station, Texas. OSU's 10-0-0 record after defeating Tech, 5-1, Sept. 26 in Sillwater, Okla. matched the best start in school history.

The Cowgirls are led offensively by Yolanda Odenyo, whose 15 goals and 34 points lead the conference, while Kasey Langdon and Siera Strawser are tied for second with 10 goals each. The trio has helped power OSU to the highest scoring offense in the nation along with Notre Dame. Erin Stigler has started every match in goal, allowing 15 goals, while collecting 48 saves. The Cowgirls are under the direction of Colin Carmichael, who is 56-16-11 in his four seasons. Carmichael has been at OSU since the program's inception in 1996, serving as an assistant coach, before being promoted to co-head coach in 2005.

### KEEP AN EYE ON... SENIOR TINA RINCON

The Tech all-time career shutouts leader, senior goalkeeper Tina Rincon could be closing her historic run as a Red Raider this week. Second in the Big 12 in saves with 84, Rincon has posted five shutouts this season, giving her 13 over her four-year career, while also moving into second place on the Tech all-time career saves chart.

### TECH AT BIG 12 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Red Raiders are winless all-time at the Big 12 Championship, losing all three meetings by a combined score of 6-17. In its first trip to the championship since 1999 last season, Tech fell behind 3-1 early in the second half against Missouri, but rallied to net two goals within a minute to tie the match late and send it into overtime. Missouri would connect on the game-winner 50 seconds in the second-overtime, however, to give the Tigers a 4-3 victory. Tech's two previous trips resulted in losses to Nebraska (1-10) in 1999 and to Missouri (2-3) in 1996. Tech advanced to the second round of the Southwest Conference Tournament in 1995 off penalty kicks. This is Tech's fourth appearance at a conference championship.



# 2008 RED RAIDER SOCCER

## FINAL BIG 12 STANDINGS

	<u>Big 12</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Overall</u>
Oklahoma State	7-1-2	23	12-2-3
Texas A&M	7-2-1	22	12-3-1
Missouri	7-3-0	21	11-4-0
Colorado	6-2-2	20	13-1-2
Nebraska	6-4-0	18	8-7-1
Texas	5-2-3	18	10-2-3
Kansas	4-5-1	13	10-5-1
<b>Texas Tech</b>	<b>3-7-0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8-7-1</b>
Oklahoma	2-7-1	7	5-9-2
Baylor	1-7-2	5	2-13-1
Iowa State	0-8-2	2	5-9-2

## Big 12 Championship Schedule

### Wednesday, Nov. 5

No. 4 Colorado vs. No. 5 Nebraska.....11:30 a.m.  
 No. 3 Missouri vs. No. 6 Texas.....1:30 p.m.  
 No. 8 Texas Tech vs. No. 1 Oklahoma St. .5:30 p.m.  
 No. 2 Texas A&M vs. No. 7 Kansas.....7:30 p.m.

### Friday, Nov. 7

Game 1 Winner vs. Game 3 Winner.....5:30 p.m.  
 Game 2 Winner vs. Game 4 Winner.....7:30 p.m.

### Sunday, Nov. 9

Game 5 Winner vs. Game 6 Winner.....Noon

## Big 12 Players of the Week

### Offensive

Aug. 26 .....Rachel Shipley, Texas A&M  
 Sept. 2 ..... Amber Gnatzig, Texas A&M  
 Sept. 9 ..... Cydne Currie, Texas A&M  
 Sept. 16 ..... Nikki Marshall, Colorado  
 Sept. 23 ..... Courtney Gaines, Texas  
 Sept. 30 ..... Gianna DeSaverio, Colorado  
 Oct. 7 ..... Laura Grace Robinson, Texas A&M  
 Oct. 14 ..... Yolanda Odenyo, Oklahoma State  
 Oct. 21 ..... Shannon McCabe, Kansas  
 Oct. 28 ..... Yolanda Odenyo, Oklahoma State  
 ..... Kasey Moroe, Texas  
 Nov. 4 ..... Mo Redmond, Missouri

### Defensive

Aug. 26 ..... Estelle Johnson, Kansas  
 Sept. 2 ..... Tasha Dittamore, Missouri  
 Sept. 9 ..... Dianna Pfenninger, Texas  
 Sept. 16 ..... Kirstin Radlinski, Colorado  
 Sept. 23 ..... Kelly Dyer, Texas A&M  
 Sept. 30 ..... Kelly Dyer, Texas A&M  
 Oct. 7 ..... Tasha Dittamore, Missouri  
 Oct. 14 ..... Kelly Dyer, Texas A&M  
 Oct. 21 ..... Erin Stigler, Oklahoma State  
 Oct. 28 ..... Dianna Pfenninger, Texas  
 Nov. 4 ..... Gianna Quintana, Baylor

### Newcomer

Aug. 26 .....Emily Cressy, Kansas  
 Sept. 2 .....Kate Russell, Colorado  
 Sept. 9 ..... Courtney Goodson, Texas  
 Sept. 16 ..... Kelly Butler, Colorado  
 Sept. 23 .....Emily Cressy, Kansas  
 Sept. 30 .....Molly Thomas, Nebraska  
 Oct. 7 ..... Becca Herrera, Texas A&M  
 Oct. 14 ..... Kelly Menachof, Colorado  
 Oct. 21 ..... Katie Goetzmann, Nebraska  
 Oct. 28 ..... Lucy Keith, Texas  
 ..... Beth West, Texas A&M  
 Nov. 4 ..... Alyssa Mautz, Texas A&M

## LYTLE LEADS RED RAIDERS IN POINTS IN FIRST SEASON

After missing the entire 2007 season following knee surgery, redshirt freshman Taylor Lytle has already proved why she was one of the top recruits in the country coming out of high school. Lytle's eight assists rank second in the conference, while the five tallied in conference play lead the Big 12. Her eight assists are one shy of tying Kristi Patterson and Kristy Frantz for the school's single season record of nine. Already among the top 10 all-time for career assists, Lytle is leading the Red Raiders in points this season with 18.

## HARRISON A PRESENCE AT BOTH THE TOP AND BACK

After playing the entire 2007 season at defender, junior Brittney Harrison has split time this season on the back line and at her former position, forward. Harrison has seven goals this season and three assists, while three of those goals came Sept. 14 against Northwestern State. Harrison is already among the school's top five all-time for career points, goals and game-winning goals and the top 10 for assists and shots attempted.

## LYTLE NAMED TO TWO BIG 12 POSTSEASON TEAMS

After leading the Red Raiders in points and assists, Taylor Lytle was honored by the conference coaches by being selected to both the All-Big 12 second team and the newcomer team. No Tech player has ever been selected to two conference postseason teams in the same season prior. Lytle also joins fellow teammate Brittney Harrison as the only other Tech player to make the newcomer team.

## ONE GOAL IS NEVER ENOUGH FOR HINDS

In her second season, sophomore Katie Hinds has been a pleasant surprise for Tom Stone. With seven goals and two assists, Hinds is third on the team in total points with 16. When Hinds scores, expect another goal to come soon after because six of her seven goals this season have come on multiple-goal matches.

## TECH NETS MOST GOALS SINCE 1996

The Red Raiders have netted 34 goals this season, which is the most by a Tech team since the 1996 squad finished with 53 goals. Tech has also had a player with multiple-goals in four matches, a feat only accomplished twice in 2007.

## NUMERICAL ROSTER

<u>No.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POS</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>CL-EXP</u>	<u>HOMETOWN/PREVIOUS SCHOOL</u>
0	Colleen Pitts	GK	5-9	Jr-2L	Dallas, Texas/Ursuline Academy of Dallas
1	Tina Rincon	GK	5-6	Sr-3L	Carrollton, Texas/Creekview
3	Shannon Sims	MF	5-6	Sr-3L	Plano, Texas/Plano East
4	Brittney Harrison	D	5-7	Jr-2L	Plano, Texas/Plano
5	Megan Hoffert	MF	5-4	Jr-2L	Albuquerque, New Mexico/La Cueva
6	Chessa Purser	F	5-6	Sr-3L	Cypress, Texas/CyFair
7	Jennifer Kammerer	D	5-8	Jr-2L	Plano, Texas/Plano
8	Madison Terry	MF	5-5	Fr-HS	Rowlett, Texas/Rowlett
9	Karen De Leon	MF	5-10	So-1L	Las Cruces, New Mexico/Mayfield
10	Zhaleh Rezaie	F	5-7	Jr-3L	Plano, Texas/Plano West
11	Lauren Clary	D	5-8	Fr-HS	Sunnyvale, Texas/North Mesquite
12	Taylor Lytle	MF	5-1	Fr-RS	Las Cruces, New Mexico/Las Cruces
13	Katie Hinds	F	5-9	So-1L	Waxahachie, Texas/Waxahachie
14	Sarabeth Clopton	D	6-0	Jr-2L	Garland, Texas/Garland
16	Leanne Mihelich	F	5-8	So-TR	Duncanville, Texas/Arkansas-Little Rock
17	Emmie Bennett	MF	5-7	Jr-2L	Carrollton, Texas/Creekview
18	Lauren Yelinek	MF	5-7	Fr-HS	Ludlow, Mass./Minnechaug Regional
19	Lexi Castellano	D	5-7	Fr-HS	Arlington, Texas/Martin
20	Maegan Wilber	MF	5-11	Jr-2L	Tijeras, New Mexico/Albuquerque Academy
21	Maggie Fete	MF	5-9	Fr-HS	Warren, N.J./Watchung Hills Regional
22	Kendyl Mygatt	F	5-6	Fr-HS	Marietta, Ga./Woodward Academy
23	Dawn Ward	F	5-8	Fr-HS	Midland, Texas/Midland
24	Hope Hanson	D	5-9	Fr-HS	Apex, N.C./Middle Creek
25	Halie Cdebaca	MF	5-9	So-1L	Lubbock, Texas/Monterey
26	Erin Villareal	D	5-7	Fr-HS	Plano, Texas/Frisco Centennial
27	Kacy Hardie	MF	5-9	Fr-HS	Atlanta, Ga./The Lovett School
28	Jordan Johnson	F	5-5	Fr-HS	Marietta, Ga./Marietta
33	Casey McCall	D	5-6	Fr-HS	Frisco, Texas/Justin Wakeland

## COACHING STAFF

### Head Coach

Tom Stone - Second Season

### Assistant Coaches

Aaron Gordon - Second Season

Ashley Gordon - Second Season

### Volunteer Assistant

Kelly Schmedes - Fourth Season

# THE BIG 12 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP



## TEXAS TECH'S RECORD WHEN...

Overall .....	8-9-1
Big 12 .....	3-7-0
Big 12 South .....	2-2-0
Big 12 North .....	1-4-0
Non-Conference .....	5-2-1
At John Walker Soccer Complex .....	5-5-0
On the Road .....	2-4-1
At Neutral Sites .....	1-0-0
Thursday .....	1-0-0
Friday .....	3-5-1
Sunday .....	4-4-0
On Artificial Turf .....	5-5-0
On Natural Grass .....	3-4-1
Leading At Halftime .....	5-2-0
Tied At Halftime .....	1-2-0
Trailing At Halftime .....	2-5-1
Overtime .....	2-0-1
Against Top 25 Teams .....	0-3-0
Against Top 10 Teams .....	0-1-0
August .....	2-1-0
September .....	4-2-1
October .....	2-6-0
November .....	0-0-0
Wearing White .....	3-4-0
Wearing Red .....	5-5-1
Team scores only one goal .....	0-2-1
Team scores only two goals .....	3-2-0
Team scores three or more goals .....	5-0-0
Shutouts .....	5-5-0
Allowing one goal .....	3-2-1
Allowing two goals .....	0-3-0
Allowing three or more goals .....	0-4-0
Having More Shots .....	7-2-1
Having Less Shots .....	1-7-0
Tied Shots .....	0-0-0
Having More Corner Kicks .....	8-4-1
Having Less Corner Kicks .....	0-4-0
Tied With Corner Kicks .....	0-1-0
Having More Saves .....	1-5-0
Having Less Saves .....	7-4-1
Being Tied With Saves .....	0-0-0

## INJURIES MOUNTING FOR RED RAIDERS

Entering this season, Tom Stone felt his biggest asset would be his improved depth. That thought was quickly shattered, however, as sophomore forward Karen De Leon and freshman forward and Tech's top recruit from the 2007 class, Dawn Ward, both underwent season-ending surgeries prior to the season. Midway through the season, Tech lost both freshman forward Kendyl Mygatt and sophomore midfielder Halie Cdebaca to knee injuries sustained in the Oklahoma State and Oklahoma matches. Tech has also had more than four players miss multiple matches due to injury.

## STONE TURNS FOCUS TO DEFENSE

Following Tom Stone's announcement as the new Tech head coach in 2007, he made an immediate focus on defense, moving all-conference freshman forward Brittney Harrison to defender and bringing in eight freshman to play at the midfield and backline. The move has been successful as Tech has qualified for the Big 12 Championship in consecutive seasons for the first time in school history.

## HOFFERT NAMED TO BIG 12 FALL COMMUNITY OF CHAMPIONS

For her effort off the playing field, junior Megan Hoffert was named Tech's representative on the Big 12 Fall Community of Champions last week. Along with being president of the Student-Athlete Committee, Hoffert is also involved in various community activities around the Lubbock area.

## RED RAIDERS RESILIENT IN OVERTIME

Entering the season with no overtime wins since 2005, the Red Raiders not only earned their first Sept. 28 against Oklahoma, but also added another last weekend against Baylor. Both of Tech's overtime victories this year have come within about a minute into the second overtime.

## RINCON AMONG THE ALL-TIME BEST TECH GOALKEEPERS

Already the school's all-time leader in career shutouts, Tech goalkeeper has moved up the ranks in yet another category, career saves. The senior from Carrollton, Texas, passed Megan Knauss for second place for career saves as she now has 301 over her four-year career. Rincon's 84 saves this season is second among Big 12 goalkeepers.

## McCALL MAKING HARRISON DECISION EASIER FOR STONE

Freshman defender Casey McCall is making Tech head coach Tom Stone's life easier not just by her play on the backline, but in his decision to keep Brittney Harrison playing forward for the time being. Known for her speed and aggression, McCall is one-for-four on shot attempts this season, netting her first career goal against Alabama A&M, while Harrison leads the Red Raiders with seven goals, which is among the top 10 in the conference.

## TECH LEADING AT THE HALF

After not leading a match at the half once in 2007, the Red Raiders have entered halftime with the lead in seven matches this season. Prior to the start of the season, Tech had not gone into the half with a lead since Oct. 10, 2006, when the Red Raiders led 1-0 over Texas State. The Red Raiders ended up defeating the Bobcats, 3-0.

## NATIONAL POLLS

### NSCAA/Adidas Oct. 28

1. Notre Dame
2. North Carolina
3. Portland
4. UCLA
5. Stanford
6. Florida State
7. Florida
8. Virginia
9. **Oklahoma State**
10. USC
11. Duke
12. **Texas**
13. Boston College
14. **Texas A&M**
15. **Colorado**
16. San Diego
17. West Virginia
18. Wisc.-Milwaukee
19. Wake Forest
20. **Missouri**
21. Penn State
22. Washington State
23. Georgetown
24. Rutgers
25. Minnesota

### Soccer America Nov. 3

1. Notre Dame
2. UCLA
3. Stanford
4. Portland
5. North Carolina
6. Florida
7. Florida State
8. **Texas A&M**
9. **Oklahoma State**
10. **Texas**
11. LSU
12. West Virginia
13. Boston College
14. Virginia
15. USC
16. Duke
17. **Colorado**
18. San Diego
19. Wisc.-Milwaukee
20. Minnesota
21. **Missouri**
22. Charlotte
23. Penn State
24. Wake Forest
25. Marquette, BYU

### Soccer Times Oct. 27

1. Notre Dame
2. Stanford
3. North Carolina
4. UCLA
5. Portland
6. Florida State
7. Florida
8. **Oklahoma State**
9. Virginia
10. USC
11. **Texas A&M**
12. **Texas**
13. Duke
14. Boston College
15. **Colorado**
16. San Diego
17. West Virginia
18. **Missouri**
19. Minnesota
20. LSU
21. Penn State
22. Georgetown
23. Wisc.-Milwaukee
24. Rutgers
25. California

### Soccer Buzz Nov. 3

1. Notre Dame
2. UCLA
3. North Carolina
4. Portland
5. Stanford
6. Florida State
7. Florida
8. **Oklahoma State**
9. **Texas A&M**
10. **Colorado**
11. San Diego
12. West Virginia
13. Virginia
14. Duke
15. USC
16. Boston College
17. Wisc.-Milwaukee
18. Minnesota
19. Wake Forest
20. **Texas**
21. Princeton
22. Central Florida
23. **Missouri**
24. Washington
25. LSU

### NSCAA/Adidas Central Region Nov. 4

1. **Oklahoma State**
2. **Texas A&M**
3. **Colorado**
4. **Missouri**  
Texas
6. **Nebraska**
7. LSU
8. Memphis  
TCU
10. Denver

### Soccer Buzz Central Region Nov. 3

1. **Oklahoma State**
2. **Texas A&M**
3. **Colorado**
4. **Texas**
5. **Missouri**
6. LSU
7. **TCU**
8. Memphis
9. Denver
10. Colorado College
11. **Nebraska**
12. **Kansas**
13. UTEP
14. Rice
15. North Texas



# 2008 RED RAIDER SOCCER

## 2008 TEXAS TECH SOCCER

### TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Location ..... Lubbock, Texas  
 Founded ..... 1923  
 Enrollment ..... 28,260  
 Nickname ..... Red Raiders  
 Colors ..... Scarlet and Black  
 Stadium ..... John Walker Soccer Complex  
 Capacity ..... TBA  
 Affiliation ..... NCAA Division I  
 Conference ..... Big 12  
 Chancellor ..... Kent Hance  
 President ..... Dr. Guy Bailey  
 Athletics Director ..... Gerald Myers  
 Senior Woman Admin. .... Judi Henry  
 Athletics Phone ..... (806) 742-3355  
 Ticket Operations ..... (806) 742-TECH

### ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

Associate AD/AMR ..... Chris Cook  
 Soccer Contact ..... Matt Dowdy  
 Office Phone ..... (806) 742-2770  
 Cell Phone ..... (806) 928-5190  
 Office Fax ..... (806) 742-1970  
 Email ..... matthew.dowdy@ttu.edu  
 Mailing Address ..... P.O. Box 43021  
 ..... Lubbock, TX 79409  
 Overnight Address ..... 6th and Boston  
 ..... Lubbock, TX 79409  
 Website ..... www.texastech.com  
 Press Box Phone ..... (806) 742-3688

### COACHING STAFF

Head Coach ..... Tom Stone  
 Record at Tech ..... 10-9-3 (1 season)  
 Career Record ..... Same  
 Assistant Coaches ..... Aaron Gordon  
 ..... Ashley Gordon  
 Volunteer Assistant ..... Kelly Schmedes  
 Soccer Office Phone ..... (806) 742-3355

### PROGRAM HISTORY

First Year ..... 1994  
 All-Time Record ..... 87-161-12  
 No. Years in NCAA Championship ..... None  
 Best Conference Finish ..... 4th (1996)

### TEAM INFORMATION

2007 Overall Record ..... 7-8-2  
 Conference Record (Finish) ..... 5-4-1 (5th)  
 Home Record ..... 4-2-0  
 Away Record ..... 3-4-2  
 Neutral Sites Record ..... 0-2-0  
 Final Rankings ..... None  
 Starters Returning/Lost ..... 9/2  
 Letterwinners Returning/Lost ..... 15/6  
 Newcomers ..... 12

### MIHELICH SEES FIRST ACTION OF SEASON

Sophomore transfer Leanne Mihelich saw her first action of the season against Oklahoma, playing a total of 60 minutes. She has seen her minutes increase each weekend, playing a season-high 69 minutes against Nebraska. Mihelich joins the Red Raiders from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock where she led the Trojans in goals (9) and points (22) as a freshman. Mihelich had previously been recovering from an ankle injury sustained in preseason practices.

### RED RAIDERS EARN FIRST VICTORY OVER OKLAHOMA SINCE 2000

With Tech's 2-1 double-overtime win over Oklahoma, the Red Raiders earned their first victory over the Sooners since 2000. Tech had also not won in overtime since 2005 and had never previously defeated a Big 12 opponent in overtime.

### STARTING QUICKER, SCORING MORE

The Red Raiders have scored 17 goals in the first half this season, 14 more than all of last season. The Red Raiders have scored within the first five minutes of the match five times this season, including Brittney Harrison's school-record goal only 12 seconds into the Alabama A&M match. Tech has scored in the first half in six of eight matches this season and is 5-1 in those matches.

### HARRISON COMPLETES HAT TRICK AGAINST NORTHWESTERN STATE

A week after connecting on the quickest goal in school history, Brittney Harrison completed the quickest hat trick in school history against Northwestern State as the junior netted three goals within the match's first 15 minutes. Entering this weekend, Harrison is second in the conference with seven goals.

### FRESHMEN CONTRIBUTING EARLY

Prior to the 2008 season, Tech head coach Tom Stone said he knew he would have to rely on his incoming class of 12 freshmen. The class, including redshirt freshman Taylor Lytle, has already totaled 35 points this season, 23 more than the 2007 class.

### JOHN WALKER SOCCER COMPLEX

Tech's newest facility on campus, the John Walker Soccer Complex, officially opened in Tech's season-opening 4-0 victory over Lamar. Named after Tech alum and donor John B. Walker, the stadium is not expected to be completed until Sept. 12, when the Red Raiders face Arizona. Complete with seating for around 1,400 fans, an awning and a pressbox, the John Walker Soccer Complex will quickly become one of the nicest soccer facilities in the country. Prior to the 2009 season, the Red Raiders will move into a new field house that will be equipped with state-of-the-art locker rooms, coaches' offices, a players' lounge and athletic training facilities. The John Walker Soccer Complex is located on 10th Street off the Texas Tech Parkway, which is west of University Medical Center.

### RED RAIDERS SELECTED SEVENTH IN PRESEASON CONFERENCE POLL

If the Texas Tech soccer team is going to finish in the top half of the Big 12 for the second-consecutive season, it will once again have to defy the odds as the Red Raiders were selected to finish seventh among the league's 11 participating schools in a preseason poll of conference coaches. The Red Raiders were predicted to finish 11th in 2007 before finishing fifth and advancing to the Big 12 Championship for the first time since 1999. Texas led the poll with 94 points, while Texas A&M and Missouri completed the top three with 93 and 77 points, respectively.

### RINCON, SIMS NAMED TEAM CAPTAINS

Prior to the season, the Red Raiders voted seniors Shannon Sims and Tina Rincon to serve as the team's captains. Sims, a midfielder from Plano, Texas, started all 17 matches last season, while Rincon added to her already impressive career numbers, adding 97 saves and five shutouts in 2007.

### STONE ADDS 12 FRESHMEN FOR SECOND SEASON

In his first recruiting class, head coach Tom Stone found much needed depth to an already talented Tech roster, adding 10 freshman - Lexi Castellano, Maggie Fete, Hope Hanson, Kacy Hardie, Casey McCall, Kendyl Mygatt, Madison Terry, Erin Villareal, Dawn Ward and Lauren Yelinek - on signing day last February. Both Lauren Clary and Jordan Johnson walked-on to the team during preseason practices.

### TECH TO HOST TEN MATCHES IN 2008

The Red Raiders will find a more favorable schedule in 2008 as Tech will host 10 home matches. Tech will also lose its "Lone Ranger" status from a year ago where the Red Raiders had to play a Big 12 opponent on both Fridays and Sundays, while each other conference opponent had an open date within its schedule. On top of five non-conference home matches, Tech also hosts national-powers and in-state rivals Texas (Oct. 12) and Texas A&M (Oct. 24). Four of Tech's five road conference matches are against Big 12 North opponents, Kansas (Oct. 3), Missouri (Oct. 5), Iowa State (Oct. 17) and Nebraska (Oct. 19).



**Tech Head Coach Tom Stone**  
**Second Season**  
**Duke, 1987**

**K**nown nationally first as a player, and now as a coach, Tom Stone enters his second season as Texas Tech head coach, after a first year that saw the program rise to new heights.

With essentially only two months before the 2007 opener following his May hiring, Stone had little time to evaluate his new players, let alone get to really know them, making the non-conference portion of the season a learning experience both for Stone and the players. In October, however, things finally came together as the Red Raiders won four out of five conference matches down the stretch to qualify for the Big 12 Championship for the first time since 1999, while also matching the most conference wins in school history.

Following his inaugural season, Stone was named the assistant coach of the U.S. Under-20 National Team that traveled to Puebla, Mexico. Stone will rejoin the team following the 2008 season for the FIFA U-20 World Cup.

Prior to his arrival at Tech, Stone spent the 2006 season at Clemson as an assistant coach, where the Tigers finished 11-8-5 and earned a birth into the Final Eight in the NCAA Tournament.

Several of Stone's greatest accomplishments as a coach, however, may have come from his time leading the Atlanta Beat of the WUSA for all three years of its existence from 2001-2003. Being the first coach hired when the league formed, Stone proved his worth quickly, claiming the inaugural WUSA regular season title. The Beat advanced to the Founders Cup title match in both 2001 and 2003. In his three seasons with the Beat, Stone finished with the highest winning percentage among WUSA coaches, finishing 13 games over .500, while also being named an all-star coach twice.

Soon after the league's fall, Stone was named the technical director of the Tophat Soccer Club in Atlanta, which is one of the top girls youth programs in the southern region. While with Tophat, Stone was primarily involved in all areas of club and player development and the College Prep Program that prepares top players for college soccer opportunities. He was also the head coach for the 2007 Gold Team that won the Georgia State Championship in 2004 and the Southern Regional Premier League in 2005.

Before beginning his professional career, Stone was the founding director of coaching at the Colorado Rush Soccer Club from 1991 to 2000. Under Stone's direction, the Rush would go on to win 35 state cups along with 12 regional championships and seven national championships, becoming arguably the most successful youth girls program in the U.S. from 1997 to 2000.

Stone has also served as a volunteer assistant coach at Duke in 1997 and the University of Denver in 1996.

When not coaching, Stone has served as an analyst for various national television networks, covering everything from the NCAA Championship to the World Cup. He has worked as the lead soccer analyst for both CSTV and Fox Sports, while also joining ESPN for its coverage of the 2003 Women's World Cup. Stone has also written guest columns for various soccer websites.

Stone holds a USSF "A" License. He and his wife, Lindsey, currently reside in Lubbock with their one-year-old son, Leyton, and recently gave birth to their second child, Lily.

## STONE'S COACHING EXPERIENCE

<u>Place</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Years</u>
Colorado Rush	Director of Coaching	1991-00
University of Denver	Volunteer Assistant	1996
Duke	Volunteer Assistant	1997
Atlanta Beat (WUSA)	Head Coach	2001-03
Tophat Soccer Club	Technical Director	2004-06
Clemson	Assistant Coach	2006
Texas Tech	Head Coach	2007-Pres.

## THE LAST TIME IT HAPPENED...

### A TEXAS TECH TEAM

Had eight points.....vs. Oral Roberts, Sept. 18, 2008  
 Had 10 points ..... vs. Northwestern State, Sept. 14, 2008  
 Had 15 points ..... vs. Prairie View A&M, Sept. 8, 2006  
 Had three goals .....vs. Oral Roberts, Sept. 18, 2008  
 Had four goals .....vs. Oral Roberts, Sept. 18, 2008  
 Had five goals..... vs. Northwestern State, Sept. 14, 2008  
 Had six or more goals..... vs. Prairie View A&M, Sept. 8, 2006  
 Had two assists .....vs. TCU, Oct. 26, 2008  
 Had three assists..... vs. TCU, Oct. 26, 2008  
 Had four assists..... vs. Northwestern State, Sept. 14, 2008  
 Had 20 shots .....vs. Baylor, Oct. 10, 2008  
 Had 30 shots .....vs. Oral Roberts, Sept. 9, 2007  
 Had 40 shots ..... vs. Prairie View A&M, Sept. 8, 2006  
 Had 10 shots on goal.....vs. Baylor, Oct. 10, 2008  
 Had 15 shots on goal..... vs. Prairie View A&M, Sept. 8, 2006  
 Had eight saves.....at Iowa State, Oct. 17, 2008  
 Scored three goals in a half.....vs. Oral Roberts, Sept. 18, 2008  
 Allowed three goals in a half.....at Texas A&M, Oct. 28, 2007  
 Played in overtime..... vs. Baylor, Oct. 10, 2008  
 Won in overtime..... vs. Baylor, Oct. 10, 2008  
 Lost in overtime ..... vs. Missouri, Nov. 7, 2007  
 Won consecutive conference matches..... vs. Iowa St., Nebraska, Oct. 12-14, 2007  
 Defeated a ranked opponent..... vs. Oklahoma State, Oct. 21, 2007

### A TEXAS TECH INDIVIDUAL

Had three points .....Taylor Lytle vs. TCU, Oct. 26, 2008  
 Had five points.....Brittney Harrison vs. Northwestern State, Sept. 14, 2008  
 Had two goals.....Katie Hinds vs. Baylor, Oct. 10, 2008  
 Completed the hat trick.....Brittney Harrison vs. Northwestern State, Sept. 14, 2008  
 Had two assists .....Taylor Lytle at Iowa State, Oct. 17, 2008  
 Had six shots .....Zhaleh Rezaie vs. Baylor, Oct. 10, 2008  
 Had 10+ shots ..... Zhaleh Rezaie vs. UTSA, Sept. 9, 2007  
 Has three shots on goal.....Taylor Lytle at Iowa State, Oct. 17, 2008  
 Has five shots on goal ..... Katie Hinds vs. Oral Roberts, Sept. 18, 2008  
 Has six or more shots on goal....Chessa Purser vs. Prairie View A&M, Sept. 8, 2006  
 Had 10 saves..... Tina Rincon vs. Missouri, Nov. 7, 2007  
 Had a shutout.....Tina Rincon at Iowa State, Oct. 17, 2007  
 Had two consecutive shutouts..... Tina Rincon, Oct. 19-21, 2007  
 Goal in consecutive matches.....Sarabeth Clopton, Sept. 12-14, 2008  
 Goal in three consecutive matches ..... Kimmie Davis, Aug. 28-Sept. 2, 2005

### A TEXAS TECH OPPONENT

Had eight points.....vs. TCU, Oct. 26, 2008  
 Had 10 points ..... at Oklahoma State, Sept. 26, 2008  
 Had four goals ..... at Oklahoma State, Sept. 26, 2008  
 Had five goals..... at Oklahoma State, Sept. 26, 2008  
 Had two assists .....vs. TCU, Oct. 26, 2008  
 Had three assists.....vs. TCU Oct. 26, 2008  
 Had 20 shots .....at Iowa State, Oct. 17, 2008  
 Had 30 shots .....at Texas A&M, Oct. 24, 2007  
 Had 10 shots on goal..... at Missouri, Oct. 5, 2008  
 Had eight saves.....vs. Oklahoma, Sept. 28, 2008  
 Had 10+ saves .....vs. Oklahoma, Sept. 28, 2008

**The Automated ScoreBook**  
**Texas Tech Combined Team Statistics (as of Nov 02, 2008)**  
**All games**

<b>RECORD:</b>	<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>AWAY</b>	<b>NEUTRAL</b>
ALL GAMES	8-9-1	5-5-0	2-4-1	1-0-0
CONFERENCE	3-7-0	2-3-0	1-4-0	0-0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	5-2-1	3-2-0	1-0-1	1-0-0

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Att.</b>	<b>##</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>gp</b>	<b>g</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>pts</b>	<b>sh</b>	<b>sh%</b>	<b>sog</b>	<b>sog%</b>	<b>gw</b>	<b>pk-att</b>
Aug 22	LAMAR	W 4-0	357	12	Taylor Lytle	18	5	8	18	62	.081	31	.500	1	0-0
* Aug 29	COLORADO	L 2-3	451	4	Brittney Harrison	18	7	3	17	41	.171	19	.463	3	0-0
Aug 31	at UTSA	W 3-0	404	13	Katie Hinds	18	7	2	16	24	.292	19	.792	2	0-0
Sep 05	at Middle Tennessee	1-1	645	14	Sarabeth Clopton	18	4	0	8	19	.211	11	.579	0	0-0
Sep 07	vs Alabama A&M	W 5-0	241	10	Zhaleh Rezaie	14	3	2	8	33	.091	11	.333	1	0-0
Sep 12	ARIZONA	L 1-2	748	22	Kendyl Mygatt	10	2	2	6	17	.118	7	.412	0	0-0
Sep 14	NORTHWESTERN STATE	W 5-1	357	18	Lauren Yelinek	13	0	6	6	12	.000	3	.250	0	0-0
Sep 18	ORAL ROBERTS	W 4-0	308	5	Megan Hoffert	9	1	3	5	6	.167	1	.167	0	0-0
* Sep 26	at Oklahoma State	L 1-5	1484	20	Maegan Wilber	18	1	1	3	27	.037	11	.407	0	0-0
* Sep 28	OKLAHOMA	W 2-1	307	8	Madison Terry	16	1	0	2	9	.111	4	.444	0	0-0
* Oct 03	at Kansas	L 0-2	475	3	Shannon Sims	10	1	0	2	8	.125	3	.375	0	0-0
* Oct 05	at Missouri	L 0-2	755	33	Casey McCall	18	1	0	2	4	.250	3	.750	0	0-0
* Oct 10	BAYLOR	W 2-1	511	7	Jennifer Kammerer	18	0	1	1	11	.000	2	.182	0	0-0
* Oct 12	TEXAS	L 0-1	505	21	Maggie Fete	17	0	1	1	10	.000	5	.500	0	0-0
* Oct 17	at Iowa State	W 2-0	551	27	Kacy Hardie	5	0	0	0	6	.000	1	.167	0	0-0
* Oct 19	at Nebraska	L 0-3	525	16	Leanne Mihelich	8	0	0	0	4	.000	0	.000	0	0-0
* Oct 24	TEXAS A&M	L 0-1	651	25	Halie Cdebaca	9	0	0	0	3	.000	1	.333	0	0-0
Oct 26	TCU	L 2-3	453	24	Hope Hanson	11	0	0	0	2	.000	1	.500	0	0-0
				19	Lexi Castellano	8	0	0	0	2	.000	2	1.000	0	0-0
				17	Emmie Bennett	13	0	0	0	2	.000	2	1.000	0	0-0
				6	Chessa Purser	1	0	0	0	2	.000	0	.000	0	0-0
				28	Jordan Johnson	1	0	0	0	0	.000	0	.000	0	0-0
				26	Erin Villareal	9	0	0	0	0	.000	0	.000	0	0-0
				11	Lauren Clary	3	0	0	0	0	.000	0	.000	0	0-0
					Total	18	34	29	97	304	.112	138	.454	8	0-0
					Opponents	18	26	19	71	252	.103	111	.440	9	2-3

<b>TEAM STATISTICS</b>	<b>TTU</b>	<b>OPP</b>
<b>SHOT STATISTICS</b>		
Goals-Shot attempts	34-304	26-252
Goals scored per game	1.89	1.44
Shot pct.	.112	.103
Shots on goal-Attempts	138-304	111-252
SOG pct.	.454	.440
Shots/Game	16.9	14.0
CORNER KICKS	102	57
PENALTY KICKS	0-0	2-3
<b>PENALTIES</b>		
Yellow cards	16	14
Red cards	0	1
<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
Total	4648	4839
Dates/Avg Per Date	10/465	7/691
Neutral Site #/Avg	1/241	

<b>##</b>	<b>Goalie</b>	<b>GP</b>	<b>Min.</b>	<b>GA</b>	<b>GAAvg</b>	<b>Saves</b>	<b>Pct</b>	<b>W-L-T</b>	<b>Sho</b>
1	Tina Rincon	18	1671:48	26	1.40	84	.764	8-9-1	5
	Total	18	1671:48	26	1.40	85	.766	8-9-1	5
	Opponents	18	1671:48	34	1.83	104	.754	9-8-1	5

<b>Goals by Period</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>OT2</b>	<b>Total</b>
Texas Tech	17	15	0	2	34
Opponents	12	14	0	0	26

<b>Shots by Period</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>OT2</b>	<b>Total</b>
Texas Tech	136	157	6	5	304
Opponents	128	118	5	1	252

<b>Saves by Period</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>OT2</b>	<b>Total</b>
Texas Tech	45	37	2	1	85
Opponents	40	60	3	1	104

<b>Corners by Period</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>OT2</b>	<b>Total</b>
Texas Tech	44	55	2	1	102
Opponents	26	29	0	2	57

<b>Fouls by Period</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>OT2</b>	<b>Total</b>
Texas Tech	89	94	6	3	192
Opponents	101	102	2	2	207

**The Automated ScoreBook**  
**Texas Tech Game Results (as of Nov 04, 2008)**  
**Conference games**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponent</b>		<b>Score</b>	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Conf</b>	<b>Att.</b>	<b>Goals scored</b>
* Aug 29	COLORADO	L	2-3	0-1-0	0-1-0	451	Sarabeth Clopton (unassisted) Zhaleh Rezaie (unassisted)
* Sep 26	at #11 Oklahoma State	L	1-5	0-2-0	0-2-0	1484	Taylor Lytle (Kendyl Mygatt)
* Sep 28	OKLAHOMA	WO2	2-1	1-2-0	1-2-0	307	Zhaleh Rezaie (Taylor Lytle;Brittney Harrison) Brittney Harrison (Taylor Lytle)
* Oct 03	at Kansas	L	0-2	1-3-0	1-3-0	475	-
* Oct 05	at Missouri	L	0-2	1-4-0	1-4-0	755	-
* Oct 10	BAYLOR	WO2	2-1	2-4-0	2-4-0	511	Katie Hinds (Lauren Yelinek) Katie Hinds (Taylor Lytle)
* Oct 12	#9 TEXAS	L	0-1	2-5-0	2-5-0	505	-
* Oct 17	at Iowa State	W	2-0	3-5-0	3-5-0	551	TEAM (Taylor Lytle) Sarabeth Clopton (Taylor Lytle)
* Oct 19	at Nebraska	L	0-3	3-6-0	3-6-0	525	-
* Oct 24	#11 TEXAS A&M	L	0-1	3-7-0	3-7-0	651	-

<b>Team Record</b>	<b>W-L-T</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Avg.</b>
Overall:	3-7-0	Total:	10	6215	622
Conference:	3-7-0	Home:	5	2425	485
Home:	2-3-0	Away:	5	3790	758
Away:	1-4-0	Neutral:	0	0	0
Neutral:	0-0-0				
Overtime:	2-0-0				

**The Automated ScoreBook**  
**Texas Tech Game Results (as of Nov 04, 2008)**  
**All games**

Date	Opponent	Score	Overall	Conf	Att.	Goals scored
Aug 22	LAMAR	W 4-0	1-0-0	0-0-0	357	Zhaleh Rezaie (Taylor Lytle) Shannon Sims (unassisted) Brittney Harrison (Jennifer Kammerer) Brittney Harrison (Zhaleh Rezaie)
* Aug 29	COLORADO	L 2-3	1-1-0	0-1-0	451	Sarabeth Clopton (unassisted) Zhaleh Rezaie (unassisted)
Aug 31	at UTSA	W 3-0	2-1-0	0-1-0	404	Taylor Lytle (Maggie Fete;Zhaleh Rezaie) Megan Hoffert (unassisted) Kendyl Mygatt (Taylor Lytle;Lauren Yelinek)
Sep 05	at Middle Tennessee	TO2 1-1	2-1-1	0-1-0	645	Kendyl Mygatt (unassisted)
Sep 07	vs Alabama A&M	W 5-0	3-1-1	0-1-0	241	Brittney Harrison (unassisted) Taylor Lytle (Brittney Harrison) Casey McCall (Megan Hoffert) Katie Hinds (Kendyl Mygatt) Katie Hinds (Lauren Yelinek)
Sep 12	ARIZONA	L 1-2	3-2-1	0-1-0	748	Sarabeth Clopton (Lauren Yelinek)
Sep 14	NORTHWESTERN STATE	W 5-1	4-2-1	0-1-0	357	Maegan Wilber (Katie Hinds;Lauren Yelinek) Brittney Harrison (unassisted) Brittney Harrison (Katie Hinds) Brittney Harrison (unassisted) Sarabeth Clopton (Megan Hoffert)
Sep 18	ORAL ROBERTS	W 4-0	5-2-1	0-1-0	308	Katie Hinds (Lauren Yelinek) Katie Hinds (unassisted) Taylor Lytle (Brittney Harrison) Madison Terry (unassisted)
* Sep 26	at #11 Oklahoma State	L 1-5	5-3-1	0-2-0	1484	Taylor Lytle (Kendyl Mygatt)
* Sep 28	OKLAHOMA	WO2 2-1	6-3-1	1-2-0	307	Zhaleh Rezaie (Taylor Lytle;Brittney Harrison) Brittney Harrison (Taylor Lytle)
* Oct 03	at Kansas	L 0-2	6-4-1	1-3-0	475	-
* Oct 05	at Missouri	L 0-2	6-5-1	1-4-0	755	-
* Oct 10	BAYLOR	WO2 2-1	7-5-1	2-4-0	511	Katie Hinds (Lauren Yelinek) Katie Hinds (Taylor Lytle)
* Oct 12	#9 TEXAS	L 0-1	7-6-1	2-5-0	505	-
* Oct 17	at Iowa State	W 2-0	8-6-1	3-5-0	551	TEAM (Taylor Lytle) Sarabeth Clopton (Taylor Lytle)
* Oct 19	at Nebraska	L 0-3	8-7-1	3-6-0	525	-
* Oct 24	#11 TEXAS A&M	L 0-1	8-8-1	3-7-0	651	-
Oct 26	TCU	L 2-3	8-9-1	3-7-0	453	Katie Hinds (Taylor Lytle) Taylor Lytle (Maegan Wilber;Megan Hoffert)

Team Record	W-L-T	Attendance	Dates	Total	Avg.
Overall:	8-9-1	Total:	18	9728	540
Conference:	3-7-0	Home:	10	4648	465
Home:	5-5-0	Away:	7	4839	691
Away:	2-4-1	Neutral:	1	241	241
Neutral:	1-0-0				
Overtime:	2-0-1				

## **Tech soccer qualifies for Big 12 tournament**

**Steven Ryan**

**Issue date:** 11/3/08 **Section:** Sports

The Texas Tech women's soccer team has qualified for the Big 12 tournament for the second straight year after Oklahoma State took care of business by beating Oklahoma 4-2 Friday night.

The 2008 Red Raiders are the first soccer team in school history to qualify for the Big 12 Tournament in back-to-back years. Tech coach Tom Stone is now two for two at sending his team to the conference's postseason.

Tech will play Oklahoma State in the first round this Wednesday at Blossom Field in San Antonio.

## OSU-OU game to decide Tech soccer team's future

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 10/31/08 **Section:** Sports

The Texas Tech women's soccer team's plane to the Big 12 Conference Tournament is being piloted by a familiar opponent.

Whether the plane flies on course to San Antonio or doesn't get off the ground depends on Oklahoma State.

Tech's postseason hopes rest on Oklahoma State beating Oklahoma tonight in Norman, Okla.

"Obviously it is not the situation we want to be in," defender Jennifer Kammerer said, "but I think we worked hard to do what we want to do this season and we put ourselves in a pretty good situation to continue on."

As one of the top teams in the Big 12, the Cowgirls should be solid favorites in this matchup. Oklahoma State, at No. 11 in the nation, boasts a 15-1-2 record and is a win away from the Big 12 regular season title.

Meanwhile OU is 3-14-1 with two conference wins coming against the last two teams in the conference Baylor and Iowa State.

But in the OU-OSU rivalry, otherwise known as the "Bedlam Series," anything can happen.

Oklahoma coach Nicole Nelson said the matchup is a great in-state rivalry and always has a lot of emotion regardless of what is laying on the line.

She added they usually get their biggest crowd of the season when Oklahoma State is in town, and she expects an even bigger crowd because this is the first Bedlam game of the year for all of OU's sports.

"We are happy that it is at our place, Nelson said. "It is always nice to have that Bedlam game at home. There is a lot riding on the result for both ends."

If the Cowgirls prevail against the Sooners tonight, they will win their first Big 12 regular season title in school history. This would give them the No. 1 seed in the Big 12 Tournament and match them up against No. 8-seeded Texas Tech in the first round.

If OU pulls off the upset, OSU will finish third and

face Nebraska in the first round, while Oklahoma will jump over Tech into the eighth seed and play top seed Texas A&M in the first round.

"Oklahoma State is smelling a championship and they are the best team we have played all year," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "If Oklahoma can win they deserve to be in the Big 12 Tournament because Oklahoma State is the best team in our conference."

According to how the season has gone so far, Oklahoma State is probably the last team Tech wants to play to kickoff the postseason.

The Red Raiders suffered their worst defeat of the year at the hands of OSU on Sept. 26 in a 5-1 loss at Stillwater, Okla.

However, the players are not afraid, as they are looking forward to another shot at the Cowgirls.

"I want another chance against them," Kammerer said. "We didn't play our best game against them, and they had a good result against us, so I think it would be good because they might not be expecting much out of us."

As the Red Raiders wait on the outcome of the Oklahoma State game, the players have been practicing with the idea that they have already made the Big 12 Tournament, and that OSU is their next opponent.

"We just talked to the players and said look, if we play on Wednesday, we know who the opponent is," Stone said. "We are going to be the only team with a week of practice under our belt knowing our opponent. If we play, we will be prepared for Oklahoma State."

## Tech soccer practicing with unknown future this week

**Steven Ryan**

**Issue date:** 10/30/08 **Section:** Sports

It is easy to practice hard when a big game is coming up.

But doing it when you don't know if there is a next game can make it hard to focus.

The Texas Tech women's soccer team is dealing with this dilemma this week, preparing for a Big 12 Conference Tournament it may not even get invited to.

"We have to practice with the idea that we will be playing on Wednesday against Oklahoma State," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "That is the only scenario that is possible right now."

With their season over and the Red Raiders holding on to the eighth and final spot in the Big 12 Tournament, their postseason hopes ride on a game being played in Norman, Okla. on Friday between rival schools Oklahoma and No. 10 Oklahoma State.

If Oklahoma State wins, Tech will hold on to eighth place and have to play the Cowgirls in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament next week in San Antonio. But if Oklahoma wins, the Sooners will leapfrog the Red Raiders and end Tech's season for good.

Even though OSU has clinched its spot in the tournament, Stone said he is confident Oklahoma State will put forth its best effort against the Sooners because if they win, the Cowgirls will claim their first Big 12 regular season title in school history.

"We will have to train with that in mind," he said, "and hope that having the extra time to focus on a team with that caliber will pay off if we get the chance to play them."

The players know they have to focus in practice as if they have an upcoming game, but some of them said it is impossible to completely ignore the importance of the OU match.

Co-captain Shannon Sims said it is a tough position to be in because they have no control of their own destiny. They just have to hope OSU comes through for them and practice hard while they wait.

"I do not want soccer to be over so I want to make the tourney," co-captain Tina Rincon said. "I got some friends at OSU, so I am going to talk to them and let them know that they need to win."

Stone said practices will be no different than usual. He wants the players to practice as if they already have qualified for the Big 12 Tournament.

"We are going to practice this week as if we know we are playing," Sims said. "We want to do everything we always work on in practice. Practices will still be really hard and intense."

## Tech soccer ends season back-to-back losses against Aggies, Horned Frogs

**Steven Ryan**

**Issue date:** 10/27/08 **Section:** Sports

The final weekend of the season did not go as planned for the Texas Tech women's soccer team.

The Red Raiders (8-9-1, 3-7 in Big 12 Conference play) fell to No. 13 Texas A&M (13-3-1, 6-2-1 in Big 12 play) Friday night 1-0, before blowing a second half lead against Texas Christian on Sunday in a 3-2 loss.

"It was a disappointing way to end the season," Tech freshman Taylor Lytle said, "but hopefully our season is not completely over yet. We could still make the Big 12 Tournament."

Against Texas A&M, Tech played its best game against a ranked opponent all season.

In their four previous matches against ranked teams, the Red Raiders were outscored a combined 11-3 and were outshot in every game.

But Friday, Tech outshot the Aggies for 90 minutes. The Red Raiders controlled the tempo the entire second half maintaining a 12-1 shot advantage for the period.

"We showed not only that we can keep up with A&M, but we showed we could dominate them at times," Tech assistant coach Aaron Gordon said. "That is the cruelty of the game we play. You can dominate the other team but still lose 1-0."

In the final minutes, Tech had numerous chances to score. Freshman Casey McCall got the ball off a corner kick and just missed what would have been a tap-in goal. A minute later, Katie Hinds found an open McCall by the net on a cross, but McCall's header went well over the goal.

With the loss to A&M, Tech finished its Big 12 schedule with a 3-7 record, good for eighth place in the conference and the final spot in the Big 12 Tournament.

Now that the Red Raiders are done with conference play, they must sit at home and hope no one catches them from behind.

The team in position to catch Tech is Oklahoma. After beating Iowa State 2-1 Sunday, the Sooners now must pull off an upset against No.

11 Oklahoma State Friday to propel them into the eighth and final spot, knocking Tech out of the postseason.

"It is just a waiting game right now," senior co-captain Shannon Sims said. "We can only hope that Oklahoma State shows up to play. We put ourselves in a tough spot."

With its conference portion of the schedule wrapped up, Tech finished its regular season against TCU Sunday, honoring seniors Tina Rincon and Shannon Sims before for their four years on the team.

For the first 48 minutes, it looked as though the two seniors would end their careers on a high note. Lytle's fifth goal of the season came early in the second half and gave Tech a 2-0 lead.

But things started going south immediately after the goal was scored.

TCU tied the game in less than two minutes. Alex Mechalske and Jordan Calhoun scored back-to-back goals seven seconds apart, then Lizzy Karoly added another in the 61st minute to give TCU a lead it would not relinquish.

"We were unable to defend on set pieces," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "We had all the momentum but we gave it away."

With the loss coming on Senior Day, Lytle said it was be a tough game to give away because the team wanted to win it for Sims and Rincon.

"They are a huge part of this team," she said. "Their leadership will be missed next year. Everyone on the team respected them and its good to have captains that you respect."

## Tech soccer entering must-win game without head coach Stone

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 10/24/08 **Section:** Sports

Getting a late-season win over a Top 15 team without a head coach should be a difficult task.

This is exactly what the Texas Tech women's soccer team will be dealing with as coach Tom Stone will be forced to watch from the stands when his team takes on No. 11 Texas A&M, 7 p.m., Friday, at the John Walker Soccer Complex.

Stone was handed a one-game suspension this week from the NCAA for getting his fifth yellow card of the season Sunday against Nebraska. Assistant Aaron Gordon has been leading practices all week while Stone has been in Los Angeles working with the women's under-21 USA team and will assume head coaching duties for Friday's game.

"Aaron is usually quiet around Tom because Tom is so outspoken," junior Sarabeth Clopton said, "but I definitely have just as much confidence in Aaron as I have in Tom. I am not worried about a lack of leadership or a lack of coaching or a lack of knowledge at all."

The players said Stone and Gordon are so similar, they do not expect much to change with Gordon in charge. Goalkeeper Tina Rincon said when both coaches are at practice they often finish each other's sentences because their coaching styles are so similar.

The two coaches still plan on working together before the game to come up with a good game plan and get the right lineup on the field.

Stone is allowed to be involved in everything the team does leading up to the game until kickoff and said he plans on doing just that. Rincon said one of Stone's strengths is his motivational speaking, so having him around for the pregame routine is very important.

"Our intensity is often dictated by Tom's pregame speech," Rincon said. "He is still going to be able to talk to us before the game so he can still have that impact on us."

With the importance of this game in regards to the Big 12 Conference standings, the players probably will not need much yelling-at to get fired up for the Aggies (12-3-1, 5-2-1 in Big 12 play).

The Red Raiders (8-7-1, 3-6 in Big 12 play) are in eighth place in the conference standings and if they drop one more spot, they could be at home when Big 12 postseason play begins.

The three teams trying to catch the Red Raiders are Iowa State, Baylor and Oklahoma. Baylor and Oklahoma are five points behind, while Iowa State is eight points behind with all three teams having three games remaining.

To get points for the standings, teams must either get wins or ties. Each win is worth three points and each tie is worth one.

Since Tech's only conference game remaining is the one against Texas A&M, it is the last chance for the Red Raiders to get some breathing room before it is forced to scoreboard watch the rest of the Big 12 games.

If the Red Raiders win, OU and Baylor must win its final three games to jump over Tech. If the Red Raiders lose, OU and Baylor would need two wins to jump into the postseason. If Tech ties, OU and Baylor would need two wins to tie Tech for the last spot.

"Getting a point means that we control our own destiny, which is what we talked about all week," Gordon said. "A point would just be huge."

This weekend also includes Senior Day for the Red Raiders as they host a non-conference game against TCU at 1 p.m. Sunday at the John Walker Soccer Complex. The only two seniors on the team are the two co-captains, Shannon Sims and Rincon.

The two captains have seen the Tech soccer program go through significant changes since their freshman years when the team went 1-18. Rincon is the all-time shutouts leader for Tech soccer and combined, her and Sims have 119 career starts.

## **Coach Stone suspended for 1 soccer game**

**Steven Ryan**

**Issue date:** 10/22/08 **Section:** Sports

The Texas Tech women's soccer team will be without its leader for this weekend's Big 12 Conference finale against Texas A&M.

Tech coach Tom Stone has been suspended one game by the NCAA for excessive yellow cards and will have to watch his team from the stands Friday. Stone received his fifth yellow card of the season against Nebraska Sunday. By rule, this warrants a one game suspension.

He will not be allowed to have contact with any of his players or assistant coaches once the game begins. However, he said he will be allowed to have exactly the same involvement with the team on game day until kickoff.

"It is unfortunate," Stone said, "but I have a great staff. The team will be ready and well prepared. We are really looking forward to Friday night."

He also is missing practice this week because he is in Los Angeles coaching the under-21 USA women's soccer team as it tries to qualify for the under-21 World Cup. Tech Assistant Coach Aaron Gordon is stepping into Stone's spot, running practice all week and will make his first official appearance as head coach of the women's soccer team Friday.

"I am sure Tom is telling Aaron exactly what to do," goalkeeper Tina Rincon said. "It is kind of a good thing because Tom is not going to be able to coach us on Friday and this gives Aaron a real opportunity to have the whole week to be the head coach."

Gordon said he is not worried about taking the extra responsibility this week because he led the team for most the spring while Stone took trips to work with the under-21 USA team.

"This is no different than it felt to be head man during the spring," Gordon said. "I had to coach us against West Texas A&M. Obviously it's not Texas A&M but I don't think it plays a big part in our preparation or on gameday. I'm looking forward to it."

## Tech soccer still in No. 8 spot after going 1-1 this weekend

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 10/21/08 **Section:** Sports

They may not be moving up, but they definitely are not moving down.

The Texas Tech women's soccer team held its ground in the Big 12 Conference race over the weekend with a 2-0 victory over Iowa State and a 3-0 loss to Nebraska.

With the victory over ISU, the Red Raiders gained three points towards the conference standings, giving them nine for the season and keeping them in eighth place for the final spot in the Big 12 Tournament.

"There have been several times when we could have given up this season," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "The players have done a good job at keeping their heads up and playing hard every game."

Goalkeeper Tina Rincon carried the Red Raiders on Friday, notching her 13th career shutout with nine saves as Tech beat ISU 2-0 despite being outshot 21-13.

Taylor Lytle had two assists in the match with the first coming on a cross headed in by an Iowa State defender and the second coming eight minutes later on a corner kick headed in by Sarabeth Clopton.

With their eighth victory of the season, the Red Raiders have equaled their highest win total in a single season since 1999 when they went 8-11-1 under Felix Oskam.

"We were a team that was ready to play," Stone said. "We were very focused, and played great on the defensive end."

Tech was not as fortunate against Nebraska on Sunday.

Not only did they lose the game, but another of the Red Raiders' leaders left the game with an injury.

Clopton had to come off the field 41 minutes into the match with a knee injury. Stone called the injury a little bit of "knee irritation" from playing a hard weekend on the road and said he expects her back in the lineup for Friday's game against Texas A&M.

"Nebraska is a team that plays very physical," Stone said, "and to lose one of our best headers in the middle of that game really made it difficult for us to come back on them."

The Cornhuskers struck first 11 minutes into the match with Sari Raber's third goal of the season off a Selenia Iacchelli assist. Tech was able to stay only one goal behind for most the match until NU scored two quick goals in the 73rd and 78th minutes to put the game away.

Despite being outshot 20-11, Tech almost had as many shots on goal as the Cornhuskers, with four compared to Nebraska's five.

"We had the same number of chances at a goal," Stone said. "They scored on their chances and we squandered ours."

Stone said he believed the long road trip took a lot out of his team and by the time Sunday came around, his players did not have much left.

"I can't tell you how hard it is to travel from Lubbock to Ames to Lincoln and then get up to play on Sunday," he said. "Even though we are sad about the Nebraska loss, we are glad to get three points out of the weekend."

## Tech soccer heads north for final road trip of the season

**Steven Ryan**

**Issue date:** 10/17/08 **Section:** Sports

Road trips can be a great opportunity for a team to build chemistry.

The Texas Tech women's soccer team has been looking at its road games that way the entire season.

"It's a lot of team bonding actually" midfielder Taylor Lytle said. "You have to sit by different people on the plane so it's a good way to get familiar with everyone on the team."

When the Red Raiders are not playing soccer on the road, they spend most of their time studying, watching movies or just hanging out. They also always get together on Saturdays to watch the Tech football game on TV.

Sophomore Katie Hinds said on its most recent road trip to Missouri, the team went to a festival where it listened to live music and ate weird food. However, she said most of her teammates weekend is devoted to resting their legs so they are fully prepared to play.

Tech coach Tom Stone said every time they hit the road, he learns something about a couple of his players that he did not know before.

"I learned a couple of the girls are really good at pingpong, which bothered the coaching staff because we think we are really good," Stone said. "Madison Terry turns into a monster when you give her a pingpong paddle. She stands there and has this sweet look on her face, and then boom she is ripping your heart out on the pingpong table."

With its final road trip coming this weekend, Tech is focusing a little less on having fun with its off time, and more on earning crucial points as the Big 12 Conference season nears its conclusion.

The Red Raiders (7-6-1, 2-5 in Big 12 play) will go up against Iowa State (5-8-1, 0-4-1 in Big 12 play), 7 p.m. Friday at the ISU Soccer Complex before facing Nebraska (7-6-1, 3-2 in Big 12 play), 1 p.m. Sunday at the Nebraska Soccer Field.

If the season ended right now, Tech would earn the eighth and final spot in the Big 12 Tournament. If the Red Raiders stay or move

higher in the standings, it would be the first back to back Big 12 Tournament appearance in school history.

But with three games remaining on the schedule, the players and coaches know they still have to earn their way into postseason play.

"We just want to come out with wins because we know how big this weekend can be," Lytle said.

The three teams trying to catch Tech are Baylor, Iowa State and Oklahoma. Tech has six points, Baylor has four, while Iowa State and Oklahoma are tied for last with one. Each win counts as three points, while a draw is worth one for both teams.

The Red Raiders have already knocked off two of those teams but Iowa State still lurks ahead. Iowa State sits at the bottom of the standings but is coming off of a close loss to A&M where the game was tied with less than 10 minutes left in the match.

"We can't control what anyone else does," Stone said. "We can only control our own destiny, so we can't be scoreboard watching. We just got to put up a number this weekend and hope that nobody else that is below us can match that."

## Soccer complex additions expected to take Tech soccer to new heights

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 10/16/08 **Section:** Sports

Home is a much more comfortable place when everything is state-of-the-art. Just ask the Texas Tech women's soccer team.

The Red Raiders packed their bags and moved out of R.P. Fuller Stadium at the end of last season. Their new home, the John Walker Soccer Complex, has given Tech coach Tom Stone a new headquarters from which to build his soccer program.

"There is no comparison between the John Walker Soccer Complex and R.P. Fuller Stadium," Stone said. "One is a track stadium that we happened to play soccer in, the other is one of the best soccer stadiums in the country."

The John Walker Soccer Complex includes a scoreboard, press box, enough seats to fit 1,400 fans and a full-size soccer field made of synthetic field turf from the same company that made the field for Jones AT&T Stadium.

What could make the complex stand out even more is Tech's plans to add to it.

Still to come is a fieldhouse which will contain new coaches offices, locker rooms, a video room, workout area, training room and concession stands. Construction on the fieldhouse began two weeks ago and is expected to be completed by Tech's first game in 2009.

Stone said the fieldhouse will be one of a kind and called it a "recruiting machine" that will attract players to the program who normally would not think about coming to the South Plains.

The project is supposed to cost \$4 million, excluding the field, fencing, scoreboard and sound system that were installed prior to this season.

The man in charge of getting the soccer complex up and moving is Paulo Peres, the senior project manager of the Facilities Planning and Construction department for Tech.

"It is a complex just for soccer," Peres said. "I have no doubt that by the time we have the team fieldhouse done, this will be the best soccer facility in the Big 12."

With every part of the complex complete except the fieldhouse, the new stadium has already provided Tech with a more distinct home-field advantage than it had last year. This year the Red Raiders are 5-3 at home, compared to 9-15-1 in their previous three seasons at R.P. Fuller Stadium. Average home attendance also has made a significant jump from last season's 349 per game to 443 per game this season.

Peres said the steepness of the stands makes the game more enjoyable to watch for the fans because it puts them right on top of the action.

"It's created some loyal fans," Stone said. "When fans have come for the first time, the environment has been so exciting that they have come back."

Tech Athletics Director Gerald Myers said the new soccer facilities were part of a master plan to build up Tech athletics. The plan also included major renovations for track, softball, baseball and football facilities.

"Our track and soccer were in the same complex, so to improve both of those facilities we had to separate them," he said. "When it was built that way, we said someday we would like to build a track or soccer field at a different location."

The athletics department decided to give the soccer team a new home at the intersection of 10th Street and Texas Tech Parkway, while R.P. Fuller Stadium undergoes renovations for the track team.

The planning for the soccer facility began years ago while Tech was still under the guidance of former coach Neil McGuire. McGuire left before the construction started when he was offered a job to coach at California in 2006.

Stone said when Tech began pursuing him to replace McGuire, the John Walker Soccer Complex played a major role in convincing him Lubbock was the right destination because it showed him the athletic department was behind the program.

"I think Tom is an excellent coach," Myers said, "and now that we have a nice facility and team building, I think it's going to enhance his recruiting and I think our team will become very competitive in the Big 12 Conference."

## Sims' return gives Tech soccer an extra leader for stretch run

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 10/15/08 **Section:** Sports

Some performances can't be measured by statistics and highlights. Some players are special enough that just being on the field makes the whole team better.

Even though senior co-captain Shannon Sims played only 64 minutes and took two shots on the weekend, she returned to the starting lineup. Her teammates and coaches said they believe having her out there was a bigger deal than what met the eye.

"I felt like her presence was important," Texas Tech coach Tom Stone said. "Knowing she was starting, having that senior on the field early on even though she is still finding her game was big for us. It won't show up on the stat sheet but she was more important than many people would have realized."

Sims missed eight straight games after hurting her knee Aug. 29 against Colorado. She was cleared to play Oct. 3 but Stone chose to use her sparingly in her first couple of games back, having her come off the bench against Kansas and Missouri and giving her a total of 72 minutes played.

After being shutout in both games and getting a season-low three shots against Missouri, Stone said he thought putting her back in the starting lineup could increase the level of team confidence.

"When the team sees her ready to go it helps out our demeanor on the field," Stone said.

With Sims back as a starter in last weekend's games against Baylor and Texas, the offense was more aggressive, scoring two goals on 41 shot attempts with 19 coming on goal. This was a major change from the weekend before when Tech scored no goals on just seven shot attempts with three coming on goal.

Junior Maegan Wilber said having Sims back on field brings back a sense of normalcy in a season that has been anything but because of an assortment of injuries. Of the 11 opening day starters for Tech, four have missed at least four games, and two of those players have been declared out for the season.

"It was great (having her back). She was vocal, encouraging, and really played hard." Wilber said. "She went into every tackle which is what we needed."

The player who may have missed Sims the most was the other co-captain, goalkeeper Tina Rincon. She is the only other senior on the team besides Sims and has been teammates with her going back to their club soccer team in high school.

"Just having her back around has helped out a lot," Rincon said. "She is always intense and is so passionate about soccer. She definitely helps me out because obviously I'm in goal so I can do so much, and she is a leader on the team both on the field and off the field."

Rincon said Sims continued acting as one of the captains even with her bum knee by making her voice heard on the sidelines with encouragements and helpful advice.

Since recovering from the knee injury, Sims has been working to get herself in midseason form even though she has only played in half of her team's games. Rincon said although Sims is not getting as much playing time as she did before the injury, the players still respect her as one of the leaders.

"I feel like I work extremely hard on the field," Sims said. "I kind of lead by example."

## Bennett provides defensive spark for Tech soccer in times of need

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 10/14/08 **Section:** Sports

What looked like a disastrous play may have actually been a good omen for the Texas Tech women's soccer team.

When defender Casey McCall left early in Friday's game against Baylor with a severe bloody nose, it not only allowed an easy goal for the opposition, but it also took one of Tech's most consistent defenders out of the game.

"On the fly, (McCall) comes running off the field and we make an adjustment and throw someone else in the back," Stone said. "During that attack we give up a goal shorthanded with 10 men. It was like a bad hockey change. We moved a midfielder back to the back but she didn't get there in time."

With his team down 1-0 early, Stone looked down his bench and decided to put junior Emmie Bennett in the game while McCall was being attended to. Stone felt confident in Bennett because she had responded well to a similar situation before.

Last year against Colorado, she was scheduled to sit on the bench until kickoff when one of the starters told Stone she could not play because of a stomach virus. Stone turned to Bennett and told her to get in the game.

Stone said Bennett played one of the best games of the year that day. She had a major role in shutting down All-American Nikki Marshall and holding the Buffaloes scoreless for 90 minutes.

"This is a mirror image of what she did for us against Colorado last year," Stone said. "I had no doubt when Emmie had to jump off the bench and fly in there that she had been in that situation before and she could play the same."

Bennett played so well in the first half, Stone decided to keep her in for the rest of the game. When McCall came back to start the second half, Stone moved Sarabeth Clopton to midfield in order to keep Bennett on the backline.

Stone was so impressed, he used that same lineup Sunday against Texas. It was Bennett's first start of the season and turned out to be a nice birthday present as she turned 21 on Saturday.

"I just had to do my job while I was out there," Bennett said. "It was just a good feeling knowing the teammates and the coaches trust me enough to let me stay out there and keep the consistent play going."

Bennett ended up playing 183 minutes over the weekend, more than she had for entire season. Before the weekend, she only had 106 minutes and one shot on goal. In 2007 she started in 10 matches and scored two goals, but she was relegated to the bench this year because of early injuries.

"She has been hurt for a while and I've been waiting for her to comeback," Clopton said. "She definitely earned her spot back."

## Tech soccer splits Baylor and Texas matches

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 10/13/08 **Section:** Sports

Playing from behind on a consistent basis presents an unusual formula for winning games, but the Texas Tech women's soccer team is finding a way to manage some success despite falling behind.

The Red Raiders used a late power surge for a come-from-behind 2-1 win against Baylor Friday night, before falling to No. 9 Texas 1-0 on Sunday at the John Walker Soccer Complex.

In Friday night's game against Baylor, freshman Katie Hinds was subbed in with 15 minutes left and turned out to be the spark plug her team desperately needed. She scored the game-tying and winning goals to lead Tech past the Bears.

"You can't say enough about Katie Hinds," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "Those goals were not tap-ins. Those were sick."

With the clock inching closer to zero and Tech (7-6-1, 2-5 in Big 12 Conference) staring its fifth conference loss in the face, Hinds scored with a header off a cross from freshman Taylor Lytle with two minutes left in the match to send the game into overtime.

In the second overtime period, the two stud freshmen connected again. Lytle sent a corner kick into the box which Hinds headed into the back of the net to win the game.

"I don't know what to say," Hinds said. "We started playing really well in the second half and overtime and I just got two great balls that were easy for me to finish."

The first goal ended a 268-minute scoring drought that started last weekend when Tech failed to score in either of their two matches at Kansas and Missouri. It was Tech's first goal since Brittney Harrison's game-winner to beat Oklahoma two Sundays ago.

The Red Raider's offense was more aggressive compared to last weekend when they took only seven shots in their two losses to Kansas and Missouri. Against Baylor (5-6-2, 1-2-1), Tech took more shots in the first half with 10, and ended the game outshooting Baylor 28-13.

Despite taking over twice as many shots as Baylor did, Tech looked like they were going to come out with a loss before making their second come-from-behind victory of Big 12 play. Stone said his team did a great job staying focused the entire match even though they were losing a match they should have been winning.

"A lot of time in that situation you start to dwell on, 'Oh my God, how can we be losing when we are outplaying this team and you get distracted,'" Stone said. "You can let the frustration distract you from the goal at hand or you can just keep going. I felt like the players on the field did a good job of not looking at the clock and just continuing to pour it on."

Against Texas (9-2-2, 2-2-1 in Big 12 play) Sunday, a strong south to north wind turned the match into a tale of two halves. Both teams played more efficient offensively when the wind was at their back.

In the first half, Texas had a 16-4 shot advantage with the wind going their way. After the teams switched sides, the wind helped Tech get nine second half shots.

"When the wind hit a certain velocity it was clear that each team was going to have a half to put the other one away," Stone said. "In the first half they scored on a nice corner kick. In the second half, those same chances came our way."

Texas midfielder Emily Anderson scored the lone goal of the game with 20 minutes left in the first half on a corner kick from teammate Courtney Gaines.

Despite some very close chances toward the end of the game, Tech was unable to even the score and were shutout for the third time in the last four games.

"We were so close and shots that went in Friday night were not going in today," Lytle said.

## Tech soccer realizes urgency as conference tournament nears

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 10/10/08 **Section:** Sports

Sometimes there is just no place like home.

The Texas Tech women's soccer team (6-5-1, 1-4 in Big 12 Conference) will look to end its two-game losing skid as the Red Raiders host a pair of home matches over the weekend against Baylor (5-5-2, 1-1-1 in Big 12 play) and Texas (8-1-2, 1-1-1 in Big 12 play). Tech will play Baylor at 7 p.m. today and Texas at 1 p.m. Sunday at the John Walker Soccer Complex.

This weekend will be a chance for the Red Raiders to get themselves back in the mix for the Big 12 Conference Tournament. With one conference win, Tech finds itself in a hole as it sits ninth in the Big 12 standings. They will need to jump to at least eighth in the standings to make the conference tournament.

"With few games left, the opportunity to get points is diminishing," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "The urgency of each game increases and our players have responded well to that."

Last season, Tech stumbled out of the gates in conference play much like it has this year, only to come back and finish with a winning record. The Red Raiders started 1-3 before winning four of their next five and ending the season at 5-4-1.

"Every weekend the deck of the Big 12 gets reshuffled," Stone said. "We went from last to second, and then back down to fifth before the whole thing was over (last season). Until you're into that last weekend, it's hard to say how the Big 12 is going to stack up."

The Red Raiders will have chances to get themselves back in the tournament. They went 3-2 last year against the teams still remaining on their schedule. Three of those five matches will be played at home in the John Walker Soccer Complex where Tech is 4-2 this season.

If they can finish the season in the Top 8, it would be the first time in school history the Red Raiders have made consecutive Big 12 Conference Tournaments

Tonight's match with Baylor will have some added significance as the two rival schools will play in the third annual Battle for the Brand.

The Battle for the Brand was created by former

Baylor and Tech coaches George Van Linder and Neil Maguire and awards the winner with a trophy. Tech won the first Battle of the Brand 2-0 in 2006 and defended its title last year with a 2-1 victory in Waco.

"It's important," defender Jennifer Kammerer said. "(The trophy) has not left this campus since the thing started so we want to keep it here. But in the bigger scheme of things, getting points for the Big 12 standings is much more important than just a trophy."

Friday's match also will be a reunion of sorts for both of the coaching staffs. Every coach for both teams was once involved at the same time with the Atlanta Beat of the now defunct Women's United Soccer Association.

Stone was the head coach for Atlanta, while Tech assistant Aaron Gordon was Stone's No. 2, similar to how he is now. Baylor coach Marci Jobson was one of the players for the Beat, while her husband, who is now the associate head coach for Baylor, worked in ticket operations. Baylor assistant Chuck Cobb is the husband of the Atlanta Beat's top player at the time, Charmaine Hooper.

Stone said he has a feeling of what to expect from Baylor because of how well he knows their coach.

"Teams often times reflect the personality of their coach," Stone said. "Marci was a very intense, physical player and had a great commitment to the game when she was on the field so we expect the same from her team."

## Tech adjusting to new playing style

**Steven Ryan**

Issue date: **10/8/08** Section: **Sports**

When a distinct change is made in strategy during the season, not all players can adjust instantly.

The Texas Tech women's soccer team dealt with this fact over the weekend as it failed to score any goals in back-to-back 2-0 losses to Kansas and Missouri.

The Red Raiders implemented a new playing style last week that moved one of their forwards to midfield. Tech had been starting two forwards with four midfielders for the first nine games, but used five midfielders with one forward this weekend.

Tech coach Tom Stone said the idea of the new formation was to have more players clogging the box on defense in order to force opponents to take more outside, low-percentage shots.

Kansas and Missouri took advantage of the open looks, getting off 33 total shots with 18 coming on goal.

"The shot totals were not unexpected because of the defensive approach we took," Stone said. "The way we played allowed lots of long shots on goal. Unfortunately, we could not convert our chances on the other end."

The Red Raiders had trouble getting shots off from the moment they stepped on the field Friday night. Tech attempted seven shots the entire weekend, with only four managing to come on goal.

In Friday night's opener in Lawrence, Kan., Tech went through its longest shot drought of the season.

The team did not get off its first shot until midfielder Shannon Sims sent one wide left of the goal over 66 minutes into the match.

This made the job easier for Kansas goalkeeper Julie Hanley, who did not have to make a single save the entire night. Tech was outshot 8-0 in the first half, 17-4 for the game, and attempted only one shot on goal for the match.

"We just need to get up the field and not let that

forward play by herself," forward Katie Hinds said. "I thought we did pretty well with (the new formation), we just need to adjust. We had our chances but we just didn't finish when we needed to."

The offensive struggles continued in Sunday's match against Missouri. Tech attempted only three shots over the entire 90 minutes and only one in the first half. Meanwhile the Tigers got off 16 total shots, with 10 of them coming on goal in the shutout win.

Stone said he has yet to decide whether he will stick with the same game plan this weekend. He said it depends on who is healthy and how the team practices during the week.

One positive note from the weekend's matches was the return of co-captain Shannon Sims. She had not played in any games since hurting her knee against Colorado on Aug. 29. What was supposed to be a minor injury, ended up keeping her out of eight games.

Sims played a total of 72 minutes on the weekend, getting off one shot against Kansas.

"I had to be really patient with (the injury)," Sims said. "It was just nice to be out there with the girls again and help the team as much as possible."

Sims' teammates believe she is one of the most valuable players on the team because of her leadership ability. Sims has 39 career starts at midfield and is one of just three seniors on this year's squad.

"Shannon's leadership helps even when she is just on the bus or hotel," Hinds said. "Our team feels a little lost when she is not around because of the leader she is."

However, after Tech got one of its leaders back, sophomore Halie Cdebaca and freshman Kendyl Mygatt were announced Sunday to be out for the season from knee injuries suffered the weekend before last against Oklahoma State and Oklahoma.

The duo had been regular contributors this season, starting a combined 18 games between them.

## Tech aiming for revenge against Mizzou

**Steven Ryan**

**Issue date:** 10/3/08 **Section:** Sports

Napoleon Bonaparte, the historic military and political leader during the French Revolution, once said "Vengeance has no foresight."

The Texas Tech women's soccer team (6-3-1, 1-2 in Big 12 Conference) will probably take these words to heart as they look to get revenge on the team that ended their season last year, the Missouri Tigers (6-3, 1-1 in Big 12 play) at noon Sunday in Columbia, Mo.

"We are just going to go out and play hard like we do every game," forward Zhaleh Rezaie said, "but just because they knocked us out last year makes me want to go out harder, so I hope the rest of the team feels the same way."

Last season, the Tigers and Red Raiders met twice, once during the regular season and again in the Big 12 Tournament. Missouri won the first game in Lubbock 2-0, and looked like it was on its way to another two-goal victory in the first round of the Big 12 tournament as it led 3-1 with less than 10 minutes to go.

Out of nowhere, Tech rallied with two goals scored less than 30 seconds apart by Maegan Wilber and Rezaie to send the game into overtime. The Red Raiders could not carry the momentum into extra time, though. Missouri eventually won the game in the second extra period with a goal by Kristin Andrighetto to effectively end Tech's season.

"It was a thriller for the fans but not for the coaches," Missouri coach Bryan Blitz said. "(Texas Tech) gave us one of the toughest games we played all year."

Some players from last year's team have not forgotten about that game.

Although the players are focused on avenging the heart-breaking loss from last year's tournament, Tech coach Tom Stone said the game is a chance for his team to prove much more.

"I don't think it's vengeance as much as we need to prove we can play with those teams in the upper echelon of our conference," Stone said. "I thought Missouri was as good as it got last year in our conference. To stay with them the way we did in the Big 12 Tournament told us that on the

day that we play our best, we can hang with them."

This season, Missouri and Tech find themselves in similar positions. Both teams are unranked, with winning records, have four shutouts, and are sitting in the middle of the conference standings with three points a piece.

The Tigers were riding a five-game winning streak going into Sunday when they lost to Nebraska in double overtime, 3-2.

"We got to be better defensively," Stone said. "They are extremely athletic. They are very vertical in nature and they just try to run and gun you for 90 minutes, and if you're not ready for the track meet that is Missouri, it's a tough game."

Before Tech gets its shot at revenge, the Red Raiders start the road trip against the previously-ranked Kansas Jayhawks (7-3, 1-1 in Big 12 play) at 4 p.m. today in Lawrence, Kan.

"We just need to come out with intensity," defender Sarabeth Clopton said. "We have to start the game fast and start the game hard."

## Tech soccer earning respect in Big 12

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 10/2/08 **Section:** Sports

This is not your dad's Texas Tech women's soccer team.

Since the hiring of Tech coach Tom Stone in 2007, opposing schools have gained more respect for the Red Raiders' program, including this weekend's opposing coaches Kansas coach Mark Francis and Missouri coach Bryan Blitz.

"Tom has done a great job," Francis said. "He has obviously brought in better players. They are very organized and he has them really committed."

In the seven seasons prior to Stone's arrival in Lubbock, Tech was an abysmal 6-63-1 in Big 12 Conference play. In the year and a half since Stone took over, the Red Raiders have matched that win total in Big 12 games, going 6-5-1.

The recruiting job over the past few years has improved Tech's record. According to soccerbuzz.com, Stone's 2008 class was ranked 66th in the nation. This was the fifth straight season Tech had a class ranked in the Top 100, going back to classes signed by previous Tech coaches Neil McGuire and Felix Oskam.

In 2007, Tech signed one of its best recruits in school history when they signed midfielder Taylor Lytle out of Las Cruces, N.M. Lytle was named to the all-state team all four years of high school and was the New Mexico District 5A Player of the Year her junior and senior seasons.

This season she has been one of Tech's biggest contributors, scoring four goals and four assists in 10 starts.

Although there are better players in the program than there were in the past, Francis said that is not the only reason why Tech is a tougher opponent.

"It is more difficult to play them now because they compete so hard," Francis said. "I think Tom has them competing harder than teams in the past who didn't always do that consistently."

Blitz has known Stone since he was a player and said he has always been very intense. He said it seems Stone has translated his relentlessness to every one of the players in his program.

Missouri played Tech twice last season, one game being in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament last year. The Tigers won the regular season and the tournament games, but Blitz said those two matches were a couple of the toughest they played all season, which says a lot considering they played a difficult schedule.

"There is no give up in any of the players on that program," Blitz said. "It is still a continuation of what they are trying to build on from last year. Every ball contested, everything is a competition."

With its first winning Big 12 season since 1996, Tech is now starting to get more financial backing from the school to bring in better recruits and keep the winning seasons coming.

This season, the Red Raiders moved into their new soccer stadium, the John Walker Soccer Complex, and construction for a fieldhouse, which will include state-of-the-art locker rooms and training facilities, is just under way.

"I think the school is more committed financially," Blitz said. "The facilities are different now so I think they have really stepped up in a big way. It gives the coaches an opportunity to make their mark in the Big 12."

Going into their match this weekend, Blitz said his team has as much respect as they could possibly have for Tech.

"We have to be ready to compete on every possession," Blitz said. "We have to bring that part of the game against Texas Tech."

Tech will take on Kansas 4 p.m. Friday in Lawrence, Kan. before continuing on the road to face Missouri at noon Sunday in Columbia, Mo.

## New defensive lineup working well for Tech soccer

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 10/1/08 **Section:** Sports

No one ever said offense wins championships.

Freshmen Lauren Yelinek and Casey McCall are the new kids on the backline, as Texas Tech soccer coach Tom Stone has counted on them both this season, giving a combined 16 starts and 1,472 minutes played between them.

Yelinek has been an aggressive player on defense, with tendencies to push the ball up the field after turnovers. Yelinek has five assists this season, good for second in the Big 12 Conference.

Meanwhile, McCall is the main reason Stone said he was able to move Tech's fastest player, junior Brittney Harrison, up to forward where she has scored seven goals. The backline to start the season included Harrison, Lexi Castellano, Jennifer Kammerer and Sarabeth Clopton.

"We couldn't release the team of its fastest defender unless we had another fast defender to put in her place," he said. "When Casey was ready to start and play side-by-side with Sarabeth, we knew that it meant we could free up Brittney to go forward."

Stone said McCall has received so much playing time - nine starts, 849 minutes - because she learns from her mistakes and does not repeat them. He also said her intensity and aggressiveness has made the transition to the college game easier on her than it has been for others.

The changes leave the backline as a mix of experienced upperclassmen and talented young freshman.

Clopton and Kammerer are two of those upperclassmen, starting in all 10 matches for Tech this season and have a combined 80 starts between them dating back to their freshmen years. Clopton is the vocal leader of the defense, often communicating with her teammates to make sure everyone is in position.

"You cannot be a good defensive team if everyone is quiet, and Sarabeth is not quiet," Stone said. "She is the leader because she sees the game, understands the system, is not afraid to organize the defense and is a very intense individual."

So far, the Red Raiders allow 1.3 goals per game, good for seventh in the Big 12. Tech also allows a .112 opponent shot percentage this season.

"We will be a team that makes defending a priority," Stone said, "but from good defending comes good attacking. We distinguish between being a good defensive team and being a team that plays great defense. We want to be a team that plays great defense because that creates offense."

The defense continues to be anchored by Tech's all-time leader in career shutouts, goalkeeper Tina Rincon, who is tied for most shutouts in the Big 12 this season - four - and is third in saves with 42.

Although Rincon's numbers stand out, she said she would be in bad shape if it was not for the four-person defensive line that plays in front of her.

"For the past two years I've thought that our defense has been pretty solid," Rincon said. "It takes a lot to get past us. I love it back there because I know that if I mess up stuff that (the back line) are gonna be there for me and they know if they mess up I will be there for them so its kind of a mutual respect type thing."

## Tech soccer team gets first conference win

**Steven Ryan**

**Issue date:** 9/29/08 **Section:** Sports

There is no such thing as an easy win in the Big 12 Conference, even if it's against the worst team.

The Texas Tech women's soccer team (6-3-1, 1-2 in Big 12) learned that lesson this weekend as it split its weekend games with the Oklahoma schools.

The Red Raiders took a 5-1 loss to No. 13 Oklahoma State (9-0-1, 1-0-1 in Big 12 play) in Stillwater, Okla. Friday, only to bounce back against Oklahoma (1-9, 0-2 in Big 12 play) 2-1, the last place team in the conference.

"The Big 12 Conference surprised everyone because I do not think we were mentally prepared for it," freshman Taylor Lytle said, "but it was nice to get our first win in conference."

Oklahoma State was the Red Raiders' first ranked opponent of the season.

The Cowgirls overpowered Tech, scoring three goals in the first half and outshooting the Red Raiders 27-7 in the win.

"No. 1, Oklahoma State is legitimately a Top 10 team," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "Every player on their team had a lights-out performance. Unfortunately we didn't match that."

Sunday's matchup with Oklahoma looked like an easy win on paper. The Sooners were in the midst of a six-game losing streak and had been outscored 15-1 in the previous five matches.

But early on OU showed Tech there are no easy wins in Big 12 play. After 30 minutes of even play, Oklahoma struck first with the lone goal in the first half.

After a foul at midfield, senior Tina Rincon came up from her goalie position to take the free kick from near the left sideline. The pass went off target, as OU took possession and started headed the other direction.

OU was able to beat Rincon back to the empty net and forward Whitney Palmer scored her team-leading fifth goal of the season to put the Sooners on top 1-0.

"We handed them a goal on a silver platter,"

Stone said. "(Rincon) didn't hit a really good ball, but we shouldn't have put her in that position."

After talking it over in the locker room during halftime, Tech had 45 minutes to even the score. Stone said he knew his team could still win the game because if not for the one easy goal, it would have been tied.

With 32:32 left in the game, the Red Raiders tied the game on a play involving three Tech players.

Midfielder Taylor Lytle passed the ball through OU's backline to forward Brittney Harrison, who then sent a short cross in front of the goal to forward Zhaleh Rezaie. The play resulted in Tech's first goal of the game and a tie game. The two teams continued to go back and forth for the rest of regulation but no goals were scored and the match was sent into overtime.

It was the first overtime game in Tech's new soccer stadium, the John Walker Soccer Complex.

The Red Raiders came out playing like the more aggressive team to start off overtime as they got three shots on goal in the first four minutes, but still no one scored in the first 10 minutes overtime period.

"We came back in the second half and scored, so why couldn't we do that again in overtime?" Lytle said.

In the second sudden-death overtime period, the tie was finally broken.

Lytle had the ball in the left corner off a throw-in and sent a cross over the middle to Harrison who headed in the game-winner.

The Tech bench cleared after the goal as the entire team, including the coaches, ran on the field to mob the hero of the day.

Harrison continues having success at the forward position. Stone started her up top again yesterday and she delivered with her seventh goal of the season.

Sunday's victory gives Tech its first conference win of the season and three points for the conference standings

"It was really exciting," said freshman Hope Hanson, who also made her first career start. "All of our hard work obviously paid off."

## Tech resumes parity-filled Big 12 play

**Steven Ryan**

**Issue date:** 9/26/08 **Section:** Sports

If parity is good for women's soccer, then last season was great for the Big 12 Conference.

For some teams, 2007 was a ground-breaking season, while for others it was a fall from glory in a year where the landscape of the Big 12 had some major changes.

"Last year was an interesting year for the whole conference," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "Some of the better teams were down and there were some surprises. This year we will see if that trend continues or if it goes back to business as usual."

All three teams who missed the Big 12 Conference tournament in 2006 - Iowa State, Texas Tech and Missouri - came back to qualify for it in 2007. Tech's five conference wins were more than it had in its previous five seasons combined.

Meanwhile, the team with the most league championships, Nebraska, tied for last with a 1-8-1 record and missed out on the conference tournament for the first time in school history.

Last year, the Big 12 was so competitive that the seedings for the conference championship were not decided until the last day of the season. The difference between the third and eighth best team in the conference turned out to be just four points - equivalent to a win and a tie.

"People can win on any given night and home field advantage means so much," said Texas A&M coach G. Guerrieri. "You've got teams like Tech that can beat any team in this conference on their night, so it will be interesting."

Nebraska coach John Walker said the fact that there are so many experienced coaches in this league is what makes the conference so competitive.

Of the 11 coaches in the Big 12 - Kansas State does not have a women's soccer team - six have been collegiate women's soccer head coaches for at least 10 seasons. Of the five other coaches, Stone might be considered the least experienced. He has one full year of being a college head coach under his belt but spent three seasons coaching the Atlanta Beat of the Women's United Soccer Association and has been involved with soccer ever since he quit

playing in 1994.

Walker and Guerrieri are the most experienced coaches in the Big 12 with 15 seasons each at their respective schools. They are the only two coaches who were in charge of their programs before the Big 12 was started, consistently pushing the two programs to the top of the heap.

The schools claimed a combined nine of the first 10 Big 12 titles. Guerrieri said the entire 1996 All-Big 12 First Team was split between players from those two schools.

Over time, everyone else in the conference has caught up.

"I think the first couple of years, us and Texas A&M had the strongest programs," Walker said. "There is much more parity now. It was just a matter of time before (the other teams) developed."

Arguably one of those emerging teams is Tech's next opponent: No. 13 Oklahoma State (8-0).

The Cowgirls are led by attacking midfielder Yolanda Odenyo. She was named to the All-Big 12 First Team each of the last two seasons and was on the Soccerbuzz All-American Second Team last year. Odenyo leads the team with eight goals this season.

OSU also sports the No. 1 scoring offense in the nation, averaging 4.4 goals per game.

"We can't have any mental lapses," Stone said. "We got to pay attention to details because they have enough talented players that if they get the ball in the wrong part of the field and we are not in good shape to defend, then they can hurt you."

The Red Raiders (5-2-1, 0-1 in Big 12 play) take on Oklahoma State 7 p.m., Friday at the Cowgirl Soccer Complex in Stillwater, Okla., before coming back to Lubbock for a match up with the Oklahoma Sooners (1-7) at 1 p.m. Sunday at the John Walker Soccer Complex.

## Big 12 looking for national recognition in women's soccer

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 9/24/08 **Section:** Sports

Big 12 Conference teams are known for being dominant in many sports: football, baseball and basketball.

But women's soccer - not so much.

The Big 12 has been progressing steadily in the sport of women's soccer since its inception in 1996, but still is struggling to be a force reckoned with on the national scene.

Last season, the Big 12 sent five teams to the NCAA tournament. In the [soccertimes.com](http://soccertimes.com) coaches poll, there are five teams from the Big 12 ranked in the Top 25.

But in the 12 years since the conference began, none of the teams have made women's soccer version of the final four: The College Cup.

"That's the only thing this conference is really missing, because I would say from top to bottom we are as good as anybody," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "We just need someone to get there and represent this conference because it is a feather that this conference needs in terms of a final statistics in being a contender."

The Big 12 has had close calls in recent years with making The College Cup. In 2006, Texas looked like it would break through after finishing the regular season with a 17-3-2 record, earning the Longhorns a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament.

The Longhorns came up short when they were upset by Portland in the third round. In the same year, Texas A&M ended its season one game short of The College Cup after being defeated by 18-time national champion North Carolina in the national quarterfinals.

Stone said he believes one of the reasons the Big 12 has not sent a team to The College Cup yet is because the NCAA does an unfair job in making the brackets for the NCAA tournament.

Last season, Texas and Texas A&M finished first and second in the final Big 12 Conference standings and the conference tournament, but when the NCAA tournament brackets came out, the two teams were drawn to meet each other in the round of 32. Texas won the game 3-2, forcing

the Big 12's second best team out of the tournament in the second round. "We don't get the one-through-64 draw that basketball gets," Stone said. "We get a geographical draw which in many cases puts Top 10 teams at each other in the first weekend. If you want a Big 12 team in the final four, how can you have our top two teams playing in the opening weekend? We are not getting any favors from the NCAA right now."

No team has come closer to making The College Cup out of the Big 12 than the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

Over the last 12 seasons, the Cornhuskers have made the Sweet 16 eight times and the national quarterfinals twice under the guidance of coach John Walker.

In 1999, they had their best season in school history, going 21-1-2, and winning the conference tournament. They rolled through the first three rounds of the NCAA tournament and were one win away from The College Cup before narrowly falling to Notre Dame on sudden-death penalty kicks.

"It is just a matter of time," Walker said. "There's been too many good Big 12 teams over the years and sometimes it can be a post here, or a penalty kick there but it shouldn't be long before you see a Big 12 team in The College Cup."

Texas A&M and Texas have gone out of the way to schedule teams from arguably the top two conferences in the nation - the ACC and PAC 10 - and have a 5-1-1 record in those contests.

Stone said the Big 12 Conference is one of the best in the nation this year and has up to six big-time teams who could end the drought.

"To not have a team there yet is disappointing," Stone said. "Whichever team gets that run going, we will all get behind them because we need that team to get there, whoever it is."

## Rincon sets school record as Red Raiders blank ORU

By Matthew Tynan | AVALANCHE-JOURNAL  
**Friday, September 19, 2008**  
*Story last updated at 9/19/2008 - 2:20 am*

It was a big night for Texas Tech at the John Walker Soccer Complex Thursday. Not only did the Red Raiders blow out Oral Roberts, 4-0, but Tech goalkeeper Tina Rincon set herself alone atop the school's list for career shutouts.

The senior from Carrollton recorded her fourth shutout of the season and the 12th of her career, surpassing the mark of 11 set by Stephanie Carter from 1994-95 - Tech's first two seasons as an NCAA program. Rincon said that although the main goal is to win games, the team had definitely been thinking about the record.

"Obviously, we've been looking for it to happen for the last several games," she said. "I think we jinxed ourselves by talking about it."

Rincon said her teammates have wanted to help her get the record almost as badly as she wanted it, and that she was impressed by Tech's aggressiveness and determination to help her accomplish the personal goal.

She also attributes much of her success to second-year head coach Tom Stone and his staff. Nine of her shutouts have come under the leadership of Stone.

Rincon also credits the tutelage of Tech assistant coach Aaron Gordon, who has changed her approach to the game.

"Previous coaches wanted me to stay back closer to the goal, but coach Gordon has taught me to be more aggressive and attack off the line more," Rincon said.

Stone had an eventful night both on and off the field. Although he was excited to see Rincon achieve the record, he was in a hurry to leave as he and his wife were expecting a newborn child.

"We're expecting between now and the next 24 hours," Stone said after the match. "We'll have another Red Raider coming into the world."

On the field, Stone could not say enough about Rincon and her role on the team.

"It's hard to express the admiration we have for Tina," he said. "A player of her caliber may not have come to Tech in the first place. She's been unbelievable both during the tougher days and

then during last year's move up through the Big 12 (Conference)."

Tech (5-2-1) scored its first goal on a long cross from the left side of the box by Lauren Yelinek. Katie Hinds jumped in and kicked in the first of her two goals for a 1-0 lead in the third minute. Yelinek added to her team-leading assist total with her fifth of the year.

Hinds then tacked on an unassisted goal from the middle of the box, giving her four goals for the year - all coming in two matches.

"Before the game and at halftime we were talking about the record and how badly we would have felt if we wouldn't have gotten it," Hinds said, shifting the attention back to Rincon. "Even if we would have won 10-1, we still would have felt bad."

Taylor Lytle scored her third goal of the season on a well-placed cross to the back post from Brittney Harrison in the 25th minute. Madison Terry finished off Oral Roberts (3-3-1) with a goal off a rebound in the 76th minute.

"We need to keep working hard because we have a tough week coming up," Hinds added. "We're really excited to get started with conference." Tech's next game is a Big 12 match against Oklahoma State at 7 p.m. Friday in Stillwater, Okla.

## Rincon breaks record in Tech's 4-0 victory over Oral Roberts

**Steven Ryan**

**Issue date:** 9/19/08 **Section:** Sports

Tina Rincon's name is now etched in Texas Tech soccer's history book.

The Red Raiders (5-2-1, 0-1 in Big 12 Conference) used another explosive start to cruise by Oral Roberts (3-3-1) 4-0 last night at the John Walker Soccer Complex. The win put Rincon as the school's career all-time leader in shutouts with 12.

"More than anything, I think my teammates were there for me," Rincon said. "It cannot be done without them. There were a bunch of times when they saved my butt, and there is a lot of time where I have saved their butts."

Things turned ugly fast for the Golden Eagles.

Katie Hinds started off the scoring binge three minutes into the match when she hit the ball with the back of her head off a Lauren Yelinek free kick.

With 25 minutes left in the half, Hinds struck again. This time she came up with a steal inside Oral Roberts's box and then beat the goalie for the 2-0 lead.

It seems as if Hinds cannot score just one goal in a game. The only other game she scored in was against Alabama A&M, where she followed up her first with another later in the game.

"I don't know," Hinds said. "Sometimes I get to where I am really comfortable in the game and I just end up scoring more than one."

Five minutes later, Brittney Harrison found a wide open Taylor Lytle on a cross. Lytle had enough time to come to a complete stop and knock it into the goal to put the game arguably out of reach.

First halves continue to go much differently than they did last season for the Red Raiders.

Last year, Tech scored only two first-half goals and never led a game at the half. This season, the Red Raiders already have 16 first-half goals and have had the halftime lead in six of their eight matches.

"There is a lot of reasons our team has been scoring more in the first half," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "It's mostly just personnel."

Tech's defense was tough to beat tonight.

They allowed only one shot on goal the entire game. Oral Roberts's Natalya Manyan was bullied around for most the game and never got a good shot at the goal.

"We just asked them to walk that fine line of being physical with her," Stone said. "That is why I'm so impressed with Casey McCall. Other than that foul, McCall really figured out how to walk that line."

Rincon said nothing has really changed with her team so far this season but the mentality.

"It is the same pregame meals we have been eating for the last couple years," she said. "It is more about our attitude coming into the game."

## Tech tunes up one last time before conference play

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 9/18/08 **Section:** Sports

If the Texas Tech women's soccer team has any more glaring weaknesses to address, it has one more chance to figure it out before things start getting really serious.

With the Big 12 Conference schedule around the corner, the Red Raiders (4-2-1, 0-1 in Big 12) have a gut-check game against Oral Roberts (3-2-1) at 7 p.m. at the John Walker Soccer Complex.

"We are going to need to come out and play as hard as we do against every other team just so we can get ready for the Big 12," forward Taylor Lytle said. "I think we are all ready just to get into conference (play)."

Following Oral Roberts, Tech will have a week off before traveling to Stillwater, Okla. to resume its conference schedule against Oklahoma State.

Even though the Red Raiders have a conference game next week against one of the top teams in the Big 12, Tech coach Tom Stone said Oral Roberts will prove to be a worthy test.

"We've got a game on our hands," Stone said. "We understand that they are a pretty feisty team and they travel pretty well, so it is a good game to finish our non-conference schedule with."

Oral Roberts started the season with back-to-back losses, but the Golden Eagles have a 3-0-1 record in September.

Most notably, one of these wins came over Middle Tennessee State, a team Tech played two weeks ago and could only manage a draw.

"They beat Middle Tennessee State 3-0, so we got to come out and play," forward Brittney Harrison said. "They are obviously a pretty good team, so we can't take them for granted. Every game is a big game because this is what decides whether we go to the postseason or not."

Oral Roberts is led by Natalya Manyan who was named to the All-Summit League First Team in 2007. She racked up five goals in the first five games of 2008.

The Golden Eagles have not had much trouble scoring goals, averaging 2.5 per game, but their defense has been seemingly invisible at times

this season.

ORU allowed nine goals in its two losses to open the season against Oklahoma State and Arkansas. The Red Raiders will be their second Big 12 opponent of the season.

"They think we are a good team," midfielder Maegan Wilber said. "Everyone that comes in knows that the Big 12 is a big conference so they are going to be extra psyched up for it."

Stone said this game is a chance to end the non-conference schedule on a high note and build on what they accomplished last weekend.

Tech is coming off a 5-1 victory against Northwestern State where the Red Raiders led 4-0 not even 15 minutes into the game.

After tonight's match, the Red Raiders get a full week of practice to prepare for a rigorous Big 12 schedule.

"We are ready (for the Big 12)", Harrison said. "We still have more training to do but I am glad we get a whole week after Oral Roberts."

As if winning the game is not enough, goalie Tina Rincon is one clean sheet away from breaking the all-time school record for shutouts, and her teammates are antsy to celebrate that with her.

"We definitely played well on Sunday," Wilber said, "but we didn't get the shutout for Tina, so maybe this will give us extra motivation to not only win, but to also get a shutout."

## Tech women's soccer hoping to get players back in time for Big 12 season

**Steven Ryan**

**Issue date:** 9/17/08 **Section:** Sports

The injury bug has taken its toll on the Texas Tech women's soccer team.

The Red Raiders most likely will continue to play shorthanded for a few more games.

The team's leading goal scorer from last year, Zhaleh Rezaie, and co-captain Shannon Sims were not participating with the team during practice again Tuesday as Tech prepares for a Thursday night matchup with Oral Roberts.

"I know they are both trying to get back by (Oklahoma State)," forward Brittney Harrison said. "That is their deadline. I do not think either of them is playing on Thursday. I think we are going to save them and wait for conference."

Sims hurt her knee in the conference opener against Colorado. She said she thought it was a minor injury at first and was expecting to play the next weekend in the Middle Tennessee Soccer Classic.

But Sims has had trouble getting back on the field. Sunday's game against Northwestern State was her fifth straight to miss.

Rezaie hurt her foot in the first match of the Middle Tennessee Soccer Classic against Middle Tennessee State. Rezaie missed her third straight game Sunday and the pair of stars were listed as day-to-day.

"(Sims') knee really hurts," Harrison said. "I know she wants to come back. She has been wanting to come back for the last couple of weeks but she can't."

With Rezaie likely out again this week, Harrison said she is expecting to start in Rezaie's position at forward for the Oral Roberts match.

After starting the first four games on defense, Harrison has had plenty of success in her three starts up top. She scored four of her team-leading six goals in those three games.

In her first start at forward, Harrison scored a goal 12 seconds into the match. Against Northwestern State Sunday, she had a hat trick in the first 15 minutes of the game.

"The statistics speak for themselves," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "Last year we did not feel comfortable leaving her out of the backline because there are so many good attacking teams."

Stone said with freshmen Lauren Yelinek and Casey McCall adjusting well to playing college-level defense, he feels better about Harrison moving up top for a while.

Another freshman Taylor Lytle, has been starting at forward the entire season and has had opportunities to lead the attack with both Rezaie and Harrison.

"I enjoy playing with Brittney because she gives us that extra speed," Lytle said. "Me and her work really well together. With Brittney, there is just more speed and we can play directly down the line. Zhaleh is more technical with footwork, and we do 1-2s and stuff."

Stone said it is a possibility that Harrison could stay at forward for longer than expected. "We will analyze it once Zhaleh is back healthy," Stone said. "Once she is healthy we will probably put a bunch of different scenarios out there, see which one clicks the best, and then go with it."

## Injuries piling up, Tech soccer loses to Arizona

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 9/15/08 **Section:** Sports

Playing your heart out is not always enough.

Just ask the Texas Tech soccer team, who lost Friday night to the Arizona Wildcats 2-1 while playing without a couple of its most experienced starters.

"I thought we outplayed them," junior Sarabeth Clopton said. "You are never happy with a loss, but I'm really happy with the effort we gave."

Co-captain Shannon Sims and forward Zhaleh Rezaie watched the game from the sideline, recovering from nagging injuries. Between them, Sims and Rezaie have 75 combined starts. For Sims, it was her fourth straight missed game.

Tech coach Tom Stone downplayed the significance of the missing starters and said that injuries sometimes happen and it is up to the bench to step up and do their job.

Stone made a few changes to his lineup to fill in the holes. Most notably, all-conference defender Brittney Harrison was moved up front to play the forward spot vacated by Rezaie's injury.

Harrison played forward before Stone's arrival in Lubbock. During the 2006 season, she led the team with nine goals while playing up top. When Stone came in, he moved Harrison to the back to shore up a defense that ranked near the bottom in the Big 12 Conference.

Stone has tinkered with Harrison playing forward many times though, sometimes moving her up front in the middle of the game to give the attack a boost. This was Harrison's first start at forward this season.

Stone said it is a distinct contrast to having Rezaie playing up top, because Rezaie is more of a possession forward with a good shot, while Harrison uses her speed to put pressure on the defense.

"It gives us a lot of speed and an awesome hitter up front," Clopton said. "I thought our back four adjusted well to not having her around."

Harrison helped lead a strong attack which outshot the Wildcats 15-9 for the game and 10-5 in the second half.

Despite winning the shot battle, Tech was unable to convert on any of their chances until the final minutes of the game when Clopton scored on a header off of Lauren Yelinek's free kick. By that time, Arizona already built a comfortable 2-0 lead, rendering the goal to be "too little too late." Arizona scored its first goal 10 minutes into the second half when Tech failed to clear the ball out of their own box, giving the Wildcats' Jacqueline Broussard a shot at the goal, which she scored. Five minutes later, Renae Cueller was fouled in the box, giving her a penalty kick that she converted to give her team the two goal lead.

The Red Raiders got another strong contribution from their freshmen. Stone played six of them throughout the game and had four in his starting lineup.

Combined they took seven shots and tallied the lone assist of the night.

Stone said he has been impressed with the improvement from defender Casey McCall.

"She just keeps getting better," Stone said. "Early on she was kind of a typical freshman, a lot to learn, but she has caught up pretty quickly and now she is a solid force in the back."

McCall's defense played a key role in allowing Arizona just four shots on goal, a surprising total considering Tech was using one of their best defenders as a forward.

McCall said it has been difficult learning on the go, but believes she already is making strides.

"The level is definitely a lot higher than high school," she said. "I just came in and worked my butt off. I think all the hard work is paying off."

Sunday, the Red Raiders defeated Northwestern State 5-1.

## Tech goalkeeper about to set milestone

By Matt Tynan | AVALANCHE-JOURNAL  
**Sunday, September 14, 2008**  
*Story last updated at 9/14/2008 - 4:05 am*

With the attention given to the new John Walker Soccer Complex at Texas Tech, the possibility of a record-setting performance by one individual may get overshadowed.

Tina Rincon, senior from Carrollton, is commanding attention by the way she plays in net for the Red Raiders.

Rincon is one shutout shy of setting the school record for most career shutouts by a Tech goalie. Tech's soccer program began in 1994.

Rincon tied the school mark - with her 11th career shutout - last week in Tech's 5-0 home win against Alabama A&M. She said that while it's nice tying the mark set by Stephanie Carter (1994-95), Rincon is focused on team success.

"It's there so it's brought to my attention," Rincon said. "The most important thing is winning though. They can score a goal but as long as we win that's all I care about."

While Rincon is about to put herself above anyone with one record, it's not her lone representation in the Tech soccer recordbooks. Rincon entered the season third in career saves. With 26 through six games, Rincon trails Megan Knauss by 23 for second. Brittney Peese (1998-2001) is Tech's all-time saves leader with 329.

"She is a very mature senior and is extremely composed both on and off the field," Tech head coach Tom Stone said. "She's a great role model to the younger players because she's been through the darker days of this program to the good days we are experiencing now."

After graduating from Carrollton Creekview, Rincon came to Tech in 2004 and started five games. The Red Raiders finished 3-16, 0-10 in the Big 12 Conference in Felix Oskam's last year as head coach.

Rincon used 2005 as a redshirt season, but began to emerge in 2006 when she started 19 of 21 matches and compiled a 1.48 goals against average.

Last year, with the help of Rincon playing all but 13 minutes during the season, Tech had one of its best campaigns in conference. The Red Raiders' 5-4-1 record was just the second time in school history that the team finished above .500

in conference play. Rincon, a team captain as a junior, had a 1.55 goals against average.

"She has gotten much better," Stone said. "She's not splitting time with anyone anymore, and she has also worked hard with the coaching staff on improving her range and being able to play off the line more. Now she's able to close out the angles better."

With the all-time shutout record on the horizon, there is a quiet sense among the team of what this accomplishment means.

"It's kind of like when a pitcher is throwing a perfect game, you don't want to talk about it," Stone said. "Plus, if you are thinking about that then you may lose focus on the game and we have to maintain focus on the goals we have on the field."

Tech has one more non-conference match Thursday at home against Oral Roberts before beginning Big 12 play Sept. 26 at Oklahoma State.

## Tech hopes to pick up more wins, Rincon on pace to break record

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 9/12/08 **Section:** Sports

The school record books might need to be rewritten when the weekend comes to an end.

Tina Rincon is one shutout away from breaking the all-time school record as the Red Raiders gear up for two-consecutive home games against Arizona and Northwestern State at 7 p.m. Friday and noon Sunday at the John Walker Soccer Complex.

"I'm really proud of her for chasing the record that she has now tied," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "We wish she was a freshman. Tina has been great. She has saved us in huge moments and she is a great leader."

Rincon has recorded eight of 11 career shutouts in the last season and a half under Stone. This season, she leads all Big 12 Conference goalies with three shutouts.

She also was one of the team captains last year for the first Tech soccer team to make the Big 12 Tournament since 1999.

Rincon said she has been quiet about the record all week.

"I'm just trying to do everything I can to help the team out," she said. "I am not really looking at my stats, I'm looking at the team's stats."

Stone said this is a record that should be shared with the whole defense. He said if you play good team defense, the goalie has to make less saves, which makes it easier to get a shutout.

The statistics agree with Stone's assessment.

In Rincon's three shutouts this season, Tech (3-1-1, 0-1 in Big 12) has allowed five shots per game. In the other two games, Tech opponents got off an average of 18.5 shots per game.

With that said, the Red Raiders might have their hands full against an Arizona team that got off 12 shots on Sunday in an overtime loss to the defending Big 12 champions, Texas.

"We know this is a huge non-conference game," Stone said. "Arizona is very good. (They) took Texas to the wire and we know how good Texas is."

Goalkeeper Chelsea McIntyre has been very difficult to score on this season, allowing just .58 goals per game while saving 88.9 percent of the shots sent her way.

The Wildcats (3-2) are outscoring their opponents 10-3. However, last year Arizona started the season 4-1, including a win against Texas before stumbling through conference play on their way to a 5-13-1 overall record.

Tech midfielder Shannon Sims said they have not been told too much about Arizona other than what formation they play and that they have a couple quick girls up top.

Instead of focusing on what Arizona does, forward Katie Hinds said the team is focusing on what it does.

"We had really intense practices (this week)," sophomore Katie Hinds said. "Last week we did not practice very well so we figured that probably had something to do with our play on Friday."

Tech is coming off a draw to Middle Tennessee State and a win over Alabama A&M.

Though Stone was disappointed about not getting a win against MTSU, he said his team learned a little bit about themselves from it.

He said when his players do not bring energy and pressure, they play below their potential.

This game also brings together two of the premier soccer conferences in the NCAA. Arizona plays in the PAC 10, which contains defending national champion USC, as well as the No. 1 and No. 3 teams in the nation, UCLA and Stanford.

Meanwhile, the Big 12 sent six teams to the NCAA tournament last year and have four teams in this week's Top 25 poll.

Although Northwestern State (1-3-1) comes from the Southland Conference and has a worse record this season, Stone said his team cannot take the Demons lightly.

"We know Sunday will not be easy," Stone said. "We are a huge game on their schedule."

## Freshmen playing major roles for Tech soccer team

**Steven Ryan**

**Issue date:** 9/10/08 **Section:** Sports

The young guns have been full of fire power lately for the Texas Tech women's soccer team.

One of the deepest freshman classes in school history has been getting plenty of playing time early in the 2008 season.

"Each game a different freshman gets to do their thing," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "Whether it is 20 minutes or 90 minutes, they all are being asked to contribute."

Of the 27 players on the roster, 12 of them are freshman, making almost half of the players participating in their first season of college soccer.

Together, this group of new players have a combined 20 starts, five goals and six assists.

From the start, Stone said he was going to lean pretty heavily on his freshman this year. Tech played a total of ten freshman in its season opener against Lamar. Three of them - Taylor Lytle, Kendyl Mygatt and Lexi Castellano - received the starting nod against the Cardinals.

Stone said one of the reasons his new players receive so much playing time is because most of them came to Lubbock during the summer and worked out with the team.

"I think we have stepped up a lot," Mygatt said. "We came out here in early July and I think we are contributing to the team."

Stone said all of the freshman have done very well and not one of them could be singled out as the leader of the group.

He said he believes they still look up to the upperclassmen for the leadership.

"They add so much to the team because each of them brings something different," junior Sarabeth Clopton said. "I don't think there is one (freshman) that has stepped up every game."

Lytle and Mygatt have started in every match this season, while defender Casey McCall had four starts and midfielder Lauren Yelinek had three starts.

Last weekend was a learning experience, as well

as a breakthrough, for the freshmen as they took their first multi-game road trip for the Middle Tennessee Soccer Classic.

The Red Raiders came out flat in the first game against Middle Tennessee State and were down 1-0 at halftime.

"It didn't start off well," Mygatt said. "But we learned from each other and I think our attitude and style of play changed throughout the weekend."

With 15 minutes left in the game, the freshmen came up big.

Lytle dribbled the ball into the box and took a shot which deflected off the post. The ball bounced right in front of Mygatt, who kicked it into the goal for Tech's only goal of the night.

That goal turned out to be crucial as the match ended in a 1-1 tie.

On Sunday, the freshmen continued to contribute as they added two goals and two assists in a 5-0 victory over Alabama A&M.

With conference play not far down the road, there are still plenty of challenges lying ahead, but for now, Stone said he is pleased with what he has seen out of his young guns.

Co-captain Shannon Sims said the freshmen classes' growth is something to watch this season.

"It's ridiculous how much they have matured as soccer players," she said. "It's an extremely nerve-racking experience to come from their club team to a college team."

## **Lytle, freshmen play well as soccer season progresses**

**Steven Ryan**

**Issue date:** 9/9/08 **Section:** Sports

Taylor Lytle's return to the soccer field has been a successful one.

Lytle played a crucial role for the Texas Tech women's soccer team in this weekend's Middle Tennessee Soccer Classic, guiding the Red Raiders to a 1-0-1 record.

"Taylor Lytle was probably the best player on the field for either team," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "She was everywhere. For a kid whose only been back playing again for a couple months, she played very well."

Lytle was forced to redshirt last season because of a major knee injury. The season opener against Lamar was her first game action in over a year.

In the second half of Friday night's game against Middle Tennessee State, Lytle took the ball off of a restart, moved past a defender and sent a shot off the post. Fellow freshman Kendyll Mygatt was there for the rebound and tapped it in to tie the game.

Stone said though Lytle did not score the goal, her play was what set it up for her teammate.

Mygatt's goal tied the game 1-1, leading to the draw.

"The goal (MTSU) scored really invigorated their team," Stone said. "We were all over them the entire second half trying to equalize. We went to three forwards, and it was during that time that we scored."

If there was any leftover anger from not getting the win against MTSU, the Red Raiders took it all out on Sunday's opponent, the Alabama A&M Bulldogs.

Tech struck first just 12 seconds into the game when junior Brittney Harrison scored off a Bulldog turnover 10 yards from goal.

Lytle had another solid game as she scored her second career goal off of a cross by Harrison.

She was not the only freshman to get in on the scoring binge.

Casey McCall had the team's third goal, while

Mygatt and midfielder Lauren Yelinek had assists.

So far this season, Tech has been getting significant contributions from its freshman class. They have scored five of the team's 15 goals and added six assists.

Lytle is the leader of this group with two goals and two assists.

## Tech soccer goes on first road trip of season

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 9/5/08 **Section:** Sports

After its first challenge in conference play, the Texas Tech women's soccer team will attempt its first challenge on the road.

The Red Raiders (2-1, 0-1 in Big 12 Conference) are heading to Murfreesboro, Tenn. this weekend to play two non-conference games in the Middle Tennessee Soccer Classic, the first time the team will spend the weekend on the road. The first of the two games comes 6 p.m. Friday at Blue Raider Field against the tournament host, Middle Tennessee State (0-2-1). The second game will come 11 a.m. Sunday against Alabama A&M (1-2).

"I enjoy being on the road," redshirt freshman Taylor Lytle said. "I didn't get to travel last year so I'm excited to actually get to go on this trip and play."

Along with Taylor, 11 other freshman will make their first weekend road trip with the team.

The first true road trip is just another test for these freshmen as they try to mature and adapt to the college game.

Junior midfielder Maegan Wilber said the freshmen have done a great job since joining the team during summer workouts. She said some of them have been starting to show how well they are performing.

In Sunday's 3-0 victory over Texas-San Antonio, Lytle and her freshman teammate Kendall Mygatt scored their first career goals.

Lytle said she was relieved to get her first goal out of the way. She also said the win was a big self-esteem booster for the team.

"Everyone put so much into the Colorado game (Tech lost 3-2)," Lytle said, "so it was good to bounce back right away."

Tech coach Tom Stone thinks the girls are looking forward to hitting the road together, but said they need to stay focused and just take it one game at a time.

"We have to look at these games as opportunities," Stone said. "Our non-conference record last year was less than desirable and one of our focuses this year has to be getting better in

non-conference games."

Last season, the Red Raiders went 2-3-1 in non-conference games. This season, they are 2-0 by a combined score of 7-0.

The coaches have not tried overloading their players' brains with too much information about their opponents this week.

"We don't know much about them," junior defender Brittney Harrison said. "The coaches know what formation they play but we have not been told much about them at all."

With the whole tournament being played at MTSU's home field, the first game will play like a road game, while the second match will be on a neutral field for both teams.

Stone said the challenge with a match on a neutral field is that the team has to create its own environment. Since the crowd is not favoring one side or the other, the team that brings the most energy to the stadium usually will win.

Whether the game will be played on an opponent's home or neutral field, Wilber said the goal still is the same.

"Tournament sounds cool," Wilber said, "but no matter what we are going to play our best."

## Tech soccer loses conference opener

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 9/2/08 **Section:** Sports

Weather delays make some games unpredictable.

After gaining a 2-1 lead with 20 minutes left in the game, the Texas Tech women's soccer team never thought the end result would be a 3-2 loss to Colorado Friday at the John Walker Soccer Complex.

"In the second half," forward Zhaleh Rezaie said, "we came out knowing what we needed to do but it just didn't happen for us."

The game began under dark clouds with a light drizzle and was stopped fifteen minutes into the match because of lightning in the area.

That was more than enough time for the Buffaloes (2-1-1, 1-0 in Big 12 Conference play) to grab the early lead from the Red Raiders.

Just two minutes into the game, two-time All-Big 12 forward Nikki Marshall scored her first goal of the season on a rebound after the ball ricocheted off the crossbar.

"The first goal was odd," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "I don't think Tina (Rincon) thought it would hit the post the way it did and it came straight out to their best player who just tapped it in."

Stone believed the delay came as an advantage because Colorado dominated possession for the first 15 minutes and Tech needed time to regroup.

During the break, Rezaie said the Red Raiders (2-1, 0-1 in Big 12 play) talked about settling down and playing their type of game, which included being aggressive and putting pressure on the ball.

This intense pressure paid off as the Red Raiders scored back-to-back goals in the next 10 minutes to take a 2-1 lead heading into halftime. The first goal came from defender Sarabeth Clopton when she rocketed a goal from 40 yards out.

Just two minutes later Rezaie scored a goal while trying to play defense from the forward position.

Colorado was trying to clear the ball from its side of the field and decided to pass the ball back to

its goalie for a long kick.

As the ball was going back to the goalie, Rezaie aggressively chased after it hoping to make some kind of play. Her persistence proved beneficial as she scored Tech's second goal.

"We just weren't ready after the break from the storm," Colorado coach Bill Hempen said. "They got in our face and made us pay for it."

Just like Tech used the weather delay to regroup after falling behind in the first half, Colorado talked it over during halftime and came out of the locker room a better team. Colorado allowed only one shot the entire second half while taking 10 of its own.

The Buffaloes had 12 shots on goal compared to Tech's four.

This made goalie Tina Rincon's job much more difficult compared to last week when Lamar had zero shots on goal.

"Every time something like that presents itself I just play hard for the team because that is what they do for me," she said.

Rincon was on her toes for most of the game and made nine saves on the evening.

The Red Raiders rebounded on Sunday with a 3-0 win in San Antonio against Texas-San Antonio.

Tech's Taylor Lytle, Megan Hoffert and Kendyl Mygatt all scored their first career goals. Rincon recorded her tenth career shutout, putting her just one behind Stephanie Carter for the school's all-time shutout record.

## Texas Tech soccer opens Big 12 play early with Colorado

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 8/29/08 **Section:** Sports

Everyone loves appetizers. Most have chips and queso, mozzarella sticks or artichoke dip. The Texas Tech women's soccer team will use Colorado as their appetizer for the Big 12 Conference season.

The Red Raiders will get an early taste of Big 12 Conference against Colorado 7 p.m. at the John Walker Soccer Complex.

"It gives you a little bit of an idea of what is ahead," Tech coach Tom Stone said. "No matter what the outcome, we are going to learn a lot about ourselves."

Usually teams play most, if not all non-conference games before getting into the conference schedule. This season the Red Raiders get their conference opener in just the second match of the season.

"It's an odd situation," Stone said. "It tests how much you got done in spring and preseason practice."

The Aug. 29 matchup is the earliest the Red Raiders have ever played a conference game in school history. They have six non-conference matches in between Colorado and their next Big 12 opponent, Oklahoma State.

The rest of the Big 12 does not start playing conference games until Sept. 26th.

Stone has tried raising the intensity in practice a little early this year in order to get his team ready for the early conference game.

"Whenever the (conference) season comes around he is really wired," Tech goalkeeper Tina Rincon said. "He has brought the intensity to let us know that this is conference, and everything we do is going to be harder than before."

Tech midfielder Shannon Sims said the game is a big test considering how young the season is, but she does not think the team is too concerned because Colorado is not anymore prepared than they are.

In all the various sports, conference games usually have a more serious feel than non-conference games.

The main goal for most teams is to win a conference championship, and non-conference games do not count toward a team's conference record.

Sims said the intensity for conference games is always higher because they are the ones that count in regard of reaching the Big 12 Tournament, something that Tech is looking to achieve for the second straight year.

Stone said the Big 12 is so competitive from top to bottom that nobody can take a night off and it's important to get a jump start in the standings.

The Red Raiders also opened their conference season last year against Colorado, winning 1-0 in Boulder.

Despite being outshot 19-10, Tech won the game with a goal in the 76th minute by Meagan Wilber off of a Zhaleh Rezaie free kick.

Sims said it was a difficult game for her because Colorado was very quick and they used an extra midfielder, which confused her on how to defend them. She said this year they are much more prepared.

"They play a little different system, so we need to make sure we are organized defensively," Rincon said. "But we also need to make sure we do what we're good at. We can't change too much for them."

The Buffaloes have struggled out of the gate this season with an 0-1-1 record.

The Buffaloes are led by two-time All-Big 12 selection, forward Nikki Marshall. Marshall has 26 career goals to her name but has yet to find the back of the net this season.

Tech is 3-10 all-time in their conference opener and 1-4 when opening the season at home. This also will be the first conference game ever played at the new John Walker Soccer Complex.

## **New stadium brings extra excitement to soccer season**

away from the action, which is a phenomenal vantage point."

**Steven Ryan**

**Issue date:** 8/28/08 **Section:** Sports

No more grass stains for the Texas Tech women's soccer team.

The Red Raiders moved into the new yet-to-be finished John Walker Soccer Complex for the 2008 season and the players could not be more excited about their new field-turf surface and venue.

"It's awesome," co-captain Shannon Sims said. "It is an amazing field and we're all really looking forward to having a one-up on teams when they walk in and see the size of it."

The stadium, named after Tech alumnus and donor John B. Walker, still needs some additions. The benches and scoreboard are finished while the stands and press box are scheduled to be complete in mid-to-late September.

When complete, the stadium will be able to seat approximately 1,400 people.

For the players, the main difference between the two stadiums is the surfaces they are playing on.

Last season's home, R.P. Fuller Stadium, had a grass field. The John Walker Soccer Complex has field turf similar to Jones AT&T Stadium where the Tech football team plays.

Tina Rincon, the other co-captain, said there are many advantages to playing on the new surface.

"It's nice to be able to come out here and know that no matter how much it just rained we're still going to play," Rincon said. "It's going to be the same thing day in and day out. If you play on grass there might be divots and stuff like that, but this is a pretty solid surface."

Tech forward Zhaleh Rezaie said the surface should give an advantage to the Red Raiders because their opponents will not be used to playing on it.

Tech coach Tom Stone is looking forward to what it will look like when it is completed, but he thinks fans still have a pretty good setup as is.

"When it's completed, it will be one of the best places to watch soccer in college, and we're looking forward to that day," Stone said. "In the meantime, fans can still get roughly 10 yards

## Rezaie's move to forward paying off for women's soccer team

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 8/27/08 **Section:** Sports

Change can be difficult. But sometimes, it is necessary.

Texas Tech forward Zhaleh Rezaie played midfield her entire life before Tech coach Tom Stone decided to move her to forward for the 2007 season.

"It took some getting used to," Rezaie said. "I felt like I was just running around up top for a little bit."

Rezaie said the position change gave her different responsibilities than before. As a midfielder she worked on playing the balls while at forward she has to score more goals.

A change in position is something many players in various sports have to deal with.

Co-team captain Shannon Sims knew exactly what Rezaie was going through. During her freshman year Sims was forced to make the same move Rezaie made last year.

Sims said her move to forward was difficult because it was so different than her previous position.

"People think it's easy to play forward and that you just get to run around and score goals but there is much more to it," Sims said.

Sims said she could tell Rezaie was frustrated at first, but once she got used to it, Rezaie became a huge asset for the team.

Rezaie started in all 17 games for the Red Raiders last season, while averaging a .356 shot-on-goal average. She was the first player to score goals in back-to-back matches against Iowa State and Nebraska since 2006. The Red Raiders were 4-1 in 2007 when Rezaie scored a goal.

Rezaie went on a tear at the end of last season, scoring three goals over her final three matches, including two goals in the first round of the Big 12 Conference Tournament against Missouri.

She finished the season leading the team in goals and points, with six and 13, respectively. Her six goals were four more than she has her freshman season in 2006.

Rezaie also had a knack for scoring goals in key moments, connecting on three game-winning goals last season, all against conference opponents, including the game-winning goal against Nebraska, one of the top teams in the Big 12 historically, leading Tech to its first-ever win against the Cornhuskers.

"She was a player that can score in the clutch," Stone said. "Her goal against Nebraska might be the biggest goal score in Tech (history)."

Stone was not surprised when Rezaie started blossoming at the end of last season. He said he was pretty sure she had the skills necessary to play the position well.

"A good college forward has to be good at two things," he said. "They have to be good at controlling the ball up top and they have to be able to score. Z can do both."

Rezaie said she is really comfortable now and her play continues to show that.

She started the season right where she left off last year with a goal and an assist in Tech's season opening win against Lamar.

"I've played (forward) enough games to where I feel like it's my position now," Rezaie said, "and I really enjoy that a lot."

## Tech women's soccer shows signs of improvement to start season

Steven Ryan

**Issue date:** 8/26/08 **Section:** Sports

Accomplishing many feats for the first time helped the Texas Tech women's soccer team step in the right direction to start the season.

The Red Raiders' first clinched their win with a 4-0 victory against Lamar Friday at John Walker Soccer Complex. The Red Raiders gained a 2-0 lead at halftime for the first time under second-year Tech coach Tom Stone and did not allow a single shot on goal for the entire 90 minutes. They also scored the most goals in a game since 2006 against Prairie View A&M.

Tech forward Zhaleh Rezaie, who led the team in goals and points last season, said the defense was a major reason for the convincing victory and a good start to the season.

"I think the defense wins games and it starts with them," Rezaie said. "If they do their job, it goes through the entire team and everyone gets their job done."

Towards the end of the first half, the Red Raiders' second goal of the season was scored by Tech defender Sarabeth Clopton off a corner kick by team captain Shannon Sims.

Although the players may have not realized the 2-0 halftime lead was a first, Stone said it was something he noticed all last season.

"I knew that we had not scored many first-half goals (last season)," he said. "We scored two last year. So it was good to score two in the first game to equal our season total from last year."

With a comfortable lead going into the half, Stone was able to get his freshman some valuable experience. At one point in the second half Stone had seven freshman on the field at the same time.

"We made a decision even prior to the game that we were going to get them in," Stone said. "We could not afford to wait until Colorado to test them."

The freshmen responded by continuing to control ball possession and not allow any shots by Lamar.

For highly-touted redshirt freshman Taylor Lytle,

playing meant a little more.

Lytle was supposed to be a key player for last year's team before a serious knee injury forced her to medically redshirt.

"I can't remember the last time I played a game. It probably was a year and a half ago," Lytle said.

Tech's next game is against Colorado at 7 p.m. Friday at John Walker Soccer Complex.