2009 F 0 0 T B A L L ON THE BCS BUBBLE



AT VIRGINIA

When: Sept. 12 Location: Charlottesville, Va. Time: 2:30 p.m.



VS. TEXAS STATE

When: Sept. 19 Location: Fort Worth Time: 6 p.m.



AT CLEMSON

When: Sept. 26 Location: Clemson, S.C. Time: TBA



VS. SMU (Family Weekend)

When: Oct. 3 **Location:** Fort Worth Time: 7 p.m.



AT AIR FORCE

When: Oct. 10 Location: USAFA, Colo. **Time:** 6:30 p.m.



VS. COLORADO STATE (Clark Society)

When: Oct. 17 **Location:** Fort Worth Time: 3 p.m.



AT BYU

When: Oct. 24 Location: Provo, Utah Time: 6:30 p.m.



VS. UNLV

(Homecoming)

When: Oct. 31 Location: Fort Worth Time: 3 p.m.



AT SAN DIEGO STATE

When: Nov. 7 Location: San Diego, Calif. Time: 3 p.m.



VS. UTAH

When: Nov. 14 **Location:** Fort Worth Time: 6:30 p.m.



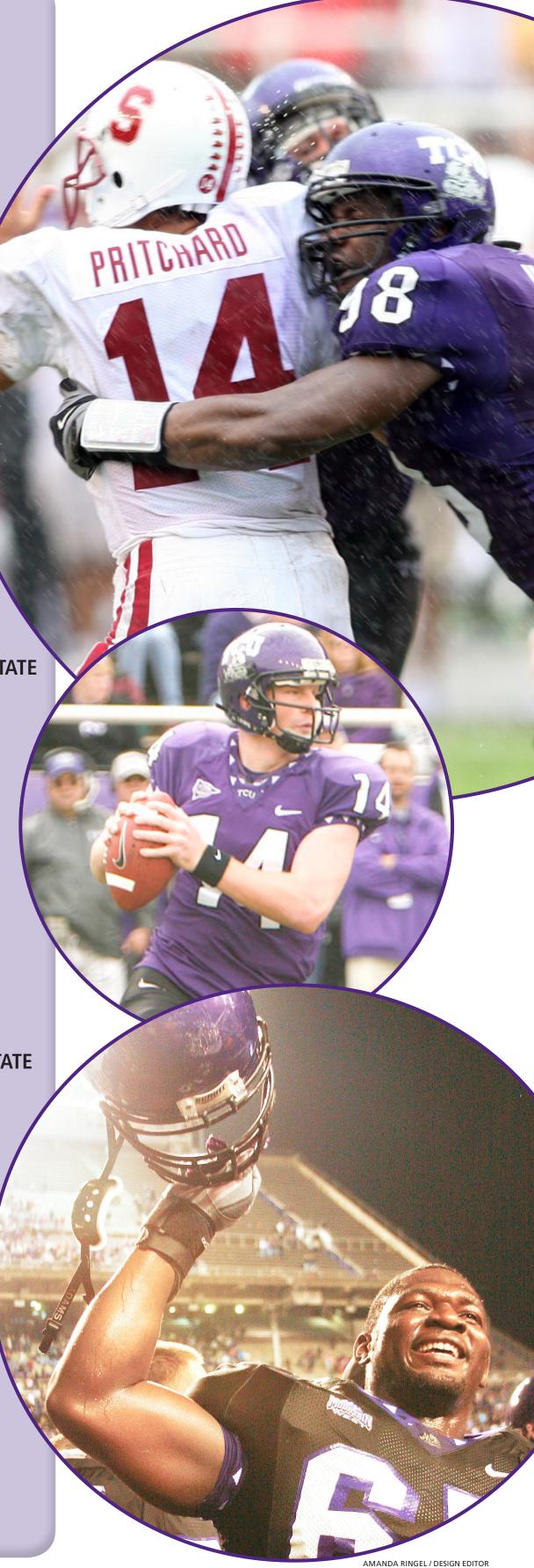
AT WYOMING

When: Nov. 21 Location: Laramie, Wyo. Time: 1 p.m.



VS. NEW MEXICO

When: Nov. 28 **Location:** Fort Worth Time: Noon



FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Season Breakdown: Long road to the top



Virginia

After a week one loss to FCS opponent William & Mary, the Cavaliers don't seem should get manhandled. to be much of a threat. Much has been made in Virginia of the spread offense installed by new offensive coordinator Gregg Brandon, but so far Brandon may want to think twice before purchasing a house in Charlottesville.

In their season opener the Cavaliers used three quarterbacks and committed seven turnovers. William & Mary were pleased to take advantage fensive starters from last year's of Virginia's ineptitude on the way to a 26-14 decision. The worst miscue was a thrown interception with 2:39 left that was returned for a touchdown to seal the game.

Despite the embarrassing loss, Virginia is capable of much more than they showed and can't be overlooked, head

coach Gary Patterson said.

The Frogs will come in a heavy favorite, but Virginia head coach Al Groh is in his ninth year and knows how to coach a team. Expect Groha tough week of practice (is there any other kind after an ugly loss?) to iron out a few kinks in the offense and motivate Virginia to play the Frogs

However, the Cavaliers TCU wins, 42-7.

Texas State

Texas State had a solid year for an FCS team last year they won the Southland Conference and went 8-4 before getting bounced by Montana in the opening round of the FCS playoffs. This year, they may beat that mark.

The Bobcats return 8 ofteam and should be loaded on offense, but the Horned Frog defense is the fastest they're likely to see all year. Bobcat senior quarterback Bradley George passed for more than 2,500 yards and 26 TDs last year, but this Horned Frog team won't be shaken at home.

TCU wins, 49-14.



Senior defensive end Jerry Hughes attempts a tackle during the game against BYU in 2008 at Amon G. Carter Stadium. The Horned Frogs are scheduled to play BYU on Oct. 24 in Provo, Utah.

Clemson

After two weeks to tune up the team, TCU will face its first major test Sept. 26. Wide receiver Jacoby Ford

are two of the most dangerous players in college football, and proved it in their week one win over Middle Tennessee State. Spiller opened the game with a 96-yard kickoff return for a touchdown, while Ford followed up with a 61-yard punt return score and a 43yard reception for six.

If Clemson had strong pieces around those two, its offense might have lived up to last year's hype. Unfortunately for Clemson, the team's freshman quarterback plays behind an offensive line that didn't impress against an inferior opponent. Clemson will depend on big plays from its two superstars, but the Frogs won't allow 202 yards on the ground like Middle Tennessee State did.

One thing Frog fans may want to keep an eye on though: Spiller left last week's game in the second quarter with a hamstring injury. After the game, Clemson spokesman Tim Bourret said the injury wasn't serious. However, if Spiller is hobbled the Frog defense's job will become much easier.

Clemson also allowed nearly 300 yards of total offense to the Blue Raiders. The Horned Frogs' offense returns far too much talent to keep this one close.

TCU wins, 38-23.

SMU

Last season June Jones' squad won only one gameover Texas State. This year, they've already matched last year's mark with a win over Stephen F. Austin.

SMU entered the fourth quarter down 23-14 to the Lumberjacks, but behind running back Shawnbrey McNeal's 19 carries for 158 yards, the Mustangs were able to pull out the victory. But McNeal isn't the only player to watch out for.

SMU quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell has become a decent quarterback in Jones' offensive system and has a number of good options at receiver. The best of the bunch is Emmanuel Sanders, who has a real chance to go down as the best receiver in SMU's history.

However, SMU is still coming off of a one-win season. The Frogs won by 41

and running back C.J. Spiller last year, but the Mustangs will get a few points for getting better.

Still, TCU wins 40-10.

Air Force

This one has trap game written all over it.

By this point in the season, teams are settled in and have seen enough competitors to get a little complacent at 4-0. Traveling to Colorado Springs expecting to win could lead to disaster.

The Air Force offense is tough to defend when it has ample time to prepare — just ask Nicholls State. The Falcons hammered their FCS opponent 72-0 in week one. The ground game is the key for Air Force, and it certainly looked healthy Saturday, piling up 474 rushing yards between 14 runners.

The Frogs lost their last fame in Colorado Springs, a sloppy 17-20 affair that ended in overtime. Patterson won't let it happen again, but this will be a good road test. TCU escapes, 30-21.

Colorado State

Buried under BYU headlines, Colorado State made some noise of their own last week by beating Big 12 rival Colorado 23-17. It's a good sign for the Rams, but it also means the Frogs will face another power in-conference.

Colorado State likes to keep in on the ground and establish the run, but it will have a tough time moving the football against the Frog's front six. On the other side of the ball the Rams held Colorado to just 29 rushing yards on 21 attempts. The Frogs should be able to spread the ball around just fine, but this is a hard-nosed defensive team.

Colorado State will face both BYU and Utah before lining up against the Frogs, so we should know a lot more about this team by that time. Expect a challenging game and one that the Frogs are glad to host.

TCU wins, 35-23.

BYU

This one just got a lot more interesting. With their upset of Oklahoma the Cougars have made themselves the team to beat in the Mountain West Conference. What's more, after their defensive line routinely abused

an Oklahoma's offense, they might just get it.

Assuming running back Harvey Unga is back and backup running back Bryan Kariya is as for real as his 118 total yards seemed to be, quarterback Max Hall is surrounded by weapons. Southlake Carroll product McKay Jacobson is capable of much more than his game-winning touchdown last Saturday. The 2006 Mountain West Freshman of the Year just returned from his two-year mission

The Cougars made themselves the team to beat in the Mountain West Conference.

and clearly hasn't lost a step. The Frog defense will need a near flawless game plan against the Cougars.

Let's not forget the BYU defense as well. Oklahoma's only touchdown was set up by a botched punt return by Jacobson. While OU certainly had to game plan around the Bradford and tight end Jermaine Gresham injuries, they also had two healthy 1,000-yard rushers in the backfield and a talented receiving corps. The Cougars shut the door hard on the Sooners.

On paper, many will doubt a Frog defense that lost many starters against the Cougar offense. Those who pay attention to the team realize that Patterson's rotation allows backups plenty of playing time. But if BYU has its full complement of weapons ready offensively, they are extremely tough to

The Frog offense can thrive in a track meet, but the Cougars have the weapons to make a couple more big plays than the boys in

BYU wins 45-38 and drops TCU to 6-1.

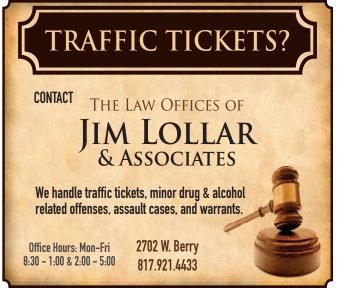
UNLV

The Rebels narrowly missed bowl eligibility last year after finishing 5-7. Last week they beat FCS Sacramento State 38-3 to open the year behind running back Channing Trotter, who fills

SEE PREVIEW · PAGE 4

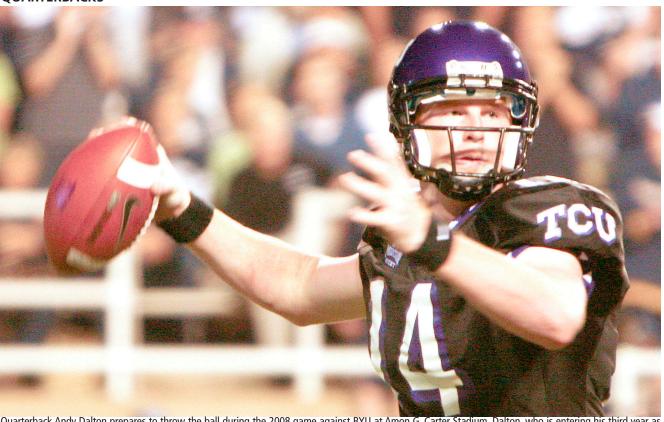








QUARTERBACKS



Quarterback Andy Dalton prepares to throw the ball during the 2008 game against BYU at Amon G. Carter Stadium. Dalton, who is entering his third year as the starter, threw for 2,242 yards and 11 touchdowns during the 2008 season.

Dalton go-to guy for potential BCS run

By Austin Pearson Staff Reporter

The Frogs will look to quarterback Andy Dalton to lead the team toward lofty expectations with leadership and poise in a balanced offense.

The Horned Frogs have redshirt junior Andy Dalton returning as he's entering his third year as the starter. Dalton returns after an excellent sophomore season where he threw for 2,242 yards with 11 touchdowns and only five interceptions. Dalton had a completion percentage of

"When you're trying to be a leader you ask guys to do things, when you become older you tell guys to do things, and that's really what he's become."

Gary Patterson head coach

59.3 percent and he ran for age of 5.5. 432 yards in 2008 with an avand five touchdowns.

a leader you ask guys to do things, when you become older you tell guys to do things, and that's really what he's become," TCU head coach Gary Patterson said. "For us to be what we want

We've got your tailgates covered

Maril

to be we need him to be a ju- the spring at safety," Patternior. He's been a freshman or son said. "He did really well a sophomore, and so for us there but we felt like that we we need him to play well this weren't far along with our year for us to uphold all the young quarterbacks to risk expectations that everyone the chance of him not being has of us."

Dalton has started 23 of the 24 games he has played be the third-string quarin, but missed two games last year due to injury. He is second in career completions in school history with 404 and third all time in passing yards with 4,701. Dalton is a two-time bowl game Most Valuable Player and has the chance to join former West White as the only quarterbacks in NCAA history to win four bowl games.

Backup quarterback Marcus Jackson has seen ex- in January and participated tensive playing time the in spring drills. The coachpast three seasons as he has ing staff is unsure if Pachall played in 28 games and has will redshirt this season. started three of them. Last

He started two consecuerage of 3.8 yards per carry tive games last year, leading ations where he's lost some the Horned Frogs to victo-"When you're trying to be ries over San Diego State and Colorado State.

> safety for a brief time in the play for the Horned Frogs. spring but the coaching staff He was rated as the No.9 decided to move him back to quarterback.

the backup."

Yogi Gallegos will likely terback this season. He was the emergency third quarterback last season but was able to keep his redshirt and pick up experience while being on the road travel team.

Gallegos completed 60.5 percent of his passes for 2,401 yards and 15 touch-Virginia quarterback Pat downs during his senior season at Irving High School.

Casey Pachall is a Rivals. com four-star recruit from Brownwood who enrolled

"We really don't decide season Jackson threw for on a redshirt until about the 372 yards with 3 touchdowns sixth or seventh game of the and two interceptions with a season where it is about half completion percentage of way through because you 56.5 percent. Jackson ran don't know about injuries or for 384 yards on 70 carries anything else that goes on," with four touchdown runs Patterson said. "It was a very and a vards per carry aver- close battle, but he's been ou for almost seven days with flu so it's one of those situground and some time."

Pachall turn downed offers from Florida, Michigan, Jackson was moved to Nebraska and Notre Dame to dual-threat quarterback and was ranked as a top 250 play-"We had depth problem in er nationally by Rivals.

NUMBERS

2,670

Yards needed for Dalton to surpass Max Knake(1992-95) as TCU's all time leader in passing yards

Current bowl-game winning streak

Top-25 finishes in the last eight seasons

.781

Mountain West Conference win percentage

RUNNING BACKS

Strong corps could rotate

By Mary Sue Greenleaf Staff Reporter

This year's offense is returning with a strong group of running backs, head coach Gary Patterson said.

Patterson said that the Horned Frogs will probably run another running back by committee system this season with five backs who could rotate in.

"We feel like we have five backs that are guys that can be somebody that we can lead with," Patterson said.

Among these is returning senior tailback Joseph Turner who led TCU last year in rushing yards with 577, as well as 146 carries and 11 touchdowns.

Another returner is senior tailback Ryan Chris-

Christian is a multipurpose player who can catch and play at wide receiver as well as return kickoffs, Patterson said.

In 2008, Christian had 30 receptions, 386 rushing yards,

"Ed Wesley will probably be your starter."

Gary Patterson head coach

and 841 all-purpose yards. He also had one solo tackle.

Ed Wesley, a redshirt freshman tailback from MacArthur High School in Irving, is expected to play a major role in the offense this season, Pat-

ably be your starter," Pat- season.

NUMBERS

577

Number of rushing yards Joseph Turner had last season.

30

Number of receptions Ryan Christian made last season.

Number of rushing yards Chris Smith had last season.

terson said.

Although there are two strong returning seniors, Patterson said he is confident in Wesley's abilities and speed.

"He is one of our all-purpose backs," Patterson said.

In addition to Wesley, Turner and Christian, there are other backs who Patterson says will rotate in this season.

Sophomore fullback Luke Shivers will rotate in this season and is a big back, Patterson said. Shivers played in 12 games

last season with six rushing yards on two carries, both resulting in touchdowns against UNLV and Air Force. Senior tailback Chris

Smith will also rotate in. Smith had 72 rushing yards in 2008.

Patterson said that all five of these primary backs do different things and to expect to "Ed Wesley will prob- see things out of all five this



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FOOTBALL PREVIEW



Coutsey of ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS

Center Jake Kirkpatrick blocks for the offensive line in a game against Air Force last November. Chemistry is key for line

By Mary Sue Greenleaf

Staff Reporter

Despite the loss of three-time All-Mountain West Conference center Blake Schlueter, this season's offensive line, with three returning starters, looks to be a major component for the success of the offense, said head coach Gary Patterson.

With the loss of Schlueter, the Horned Frog offense made adjustments and gained depth in the position of center. Junior Jake Kirkpatrick will start this season, Patterson said.

"If we're gonna be a good football team then Jake Kirkpatrick has to step up and be the guy." Patterson said. "The guys behind him have to step up and be who they are too."

Redshirt freshman James Fry is expected to back up Kirkpatrick at center, Patterson said.

Patterson said Kirkpatrick was injured early in camp this

summer but recovered and son, stepped up and helped lead returned to start the season

of former Dallas Cowboys fullback Robert Newhouse, made second-team All-MWC last season and has started the last 26 consecutive games at offensive right guard. In 2008, Vertackle for the Frogs.

Junior Marcus Cannon and senior Nic Richmond are expected to alternate at right tackle, Patterson said.

"Nic Richmond, Marcus Cannon and Marshall Newhouse are three of our best players on our team," Patterson said. "They are one of our strengths of our offense."

Cannon was named All-MWC honorable-mention. Due to an injury last season, Cannon did not start against BYU and UNLV, but Richmond, who played in all 13 games last sea-

the Horned Frogs to victories.

At left guard, sophomore Senior Marshall Newhouse Kyle Dooley is returning after will start his third season as a season-ending injury in the left tackle. Newhouse, cousin UNLV game in 2008. As a former walk-on, Dooley started five consecutive games last season before his injury.

> Josh Vernon will start at non played in 12 games and backed up the position of left

> Backing up the starters at guard are redshirt freshman Blaize Foltz and junior Zach Roth. Both Foltz and Roth redshirted last season.

Patterson said the line as a whole looked strong for the season with depth and expe-

"They have great chemistry but you don't really know about how well they come together until we see them in the first ball game," Patterson said.

PREVIEW

continued from page 2

big question mark coming in to the season. Adding Trotter to an already productive offense should make them respectable on that side of the ball.

The problem in Las Vegas has been the defense, which finished second to last in the Mountain West in total defense last year.

After BYU this could be a bit of a letdown game, but the Frogs wear down the Rebels' defense in the second half.

TCU wins, 33-21.

San Diego State

Under new head coach Brady Hoke, the Aztecs are in for a long rebuilding year in 2009.

After jumping out to a shocking 14-3 lead on UCLA last Saturday, San Diego State began playing like the team most expected on its way to a 33-14 loss. The Aztecs were woeful running the football (18 rushes for 39 yards) and were forced to put the game in the arm of sophomore quarterback Ryan Lindley.

Lindley might be a player to watch as he gets more experience, but his stat line (18-45, 238 yards, 2 TDs, 3 INTs) won't cause a whole lot of worry for now.

Last year's bottom-ranked defense returns with most starters back and a new coordinator in former New Mexico head coach Rocky Long. Long is installing his 3-3-5 defense this year, but it have the same success withwon't come without growing

San Diego State won't be

much of a threat this year, but there is light on the horizon for the Aztecs. TCU wins, 45-10.

Utah

Revenge is the name of the game here. After last year's disappointing threepoint loss, the Utes will travel to Fort Worth in what should be a physical game.

New Utah quarterback Terrance Cain will have had plenty of time under center by the time he travels to Fort Worth, but this is an offense that returned only four starters. There will likely be at least a small drop off this year from last year's undefeated squad. However, if there is, they didn't look it in their opener.

The Utes beat Utah State 35-17 while piling up 519 yards of offense.

The Utah defense returns seven and should be strong again this year. Linebacker Stevenson Sylvester is the leader of the unit and is expected to have a big year. If he is unblocked, he will give the Frogs' offense fits.

The Frogs are glad to have the home field advantage in this one, and is also glad former Utah kicker Louie Sakoda has moved on. Utah is still a very tough match up, but not quite as scary as last year.

TCU wins, 24-17.

Wyoming

New Wyoming coach Dave Christensen is known for his offense at Missouri, but he may find he doesn't out Big 12 players.

The Cowboys beat FCS contender Weber State

29-22 on Saturday and put up much improved offensive numbers in their new spread, no huddle offense.

Wyoming is currently switching out quarterbacks and got decent play from both in week one. Its ground game also impressed as running backs Darius Terry and Alvester Alexander combining for 180 rushing yards.

The Cowboys return eight defensively and should be capable. Wyoming will play tough, but this is not its year. TCU wins, 30-17.

New Mexico

After the Lobos lost their defensive specialist coach to San Diego State last November, and with only three starters returning on that side of the ball, New Mexico is in for a long year.

Texas A&M started the party last Saturday by ripping New Mexico in a 606 vard, 41-6 cleaning.

The Lobos moved to a more traditional 4-3 defensive scheme under new coach Mike Locksley, and while one game isn't nearly enough to judge, things certainly don't look good in Albuquerque.

Adding to their woes, the Lobos' ground game was horrendous. They carried the ball 24 times for 21 yards.

The only bright spot on the Lobos' season will be quarterback Donovan Porterie who was 29-40 for 210 yards and no interceptions. While much can change before the regular season finale, right now the Lobos are regressing.

TCU wins, 48-6 to close the season 11-1.

"Ring leader" Kerley helps head talented receiving group

By Chris Blake

Staff Reporter

During his senior year at Hutto High School, Jeremy Kerley's team was down at halftime to Waco Robinson in a first round sometimes it hurts him with his for 206 yards and a touchdown playoff game. Kerley had the flu, size of body he gets banged up a in 2008. but went to head coach Lee Pen- little bit," head coach Gary Patland at the intermission and said terson said "But one of the ball if the Hippos needed to put the ball in his hands on every play in order to win, then he would score a touchdown, a big defen-

Penland did not give Kerley the ball every play and Hutto ing up just about everywhere went on to lose the game 49-27, a year after falling in the state championship game to Tatum. Despite the loss, Penland said it was Kerley's willingness to take the team on his shoulders that stuck out.

"Greatest competitor I've ever been around," Penland said of Kerley, who will be used as a punt returner for the Frogs. "I've as he could and was as competitive as Jeremy Kerley."

Kerley will not be asked to carry quite that much of a load this fall for the Horned Frogs,

be Kerley's versatility and competitive streak that provides a

games last year on the goal line ceptions a year ago, the team has he had to run over somebody to sive lineman, and he did so."

His role for the Frogs, linthe junior from Hutto, Texas has been asked to play multiple positions. Penland said Kerley started at quarterback all four years of high school for the Hutto squad, expanding his duties to defensive back, kick returner, punt returner, punter and kicker

"We played a team one time just never been around a guy and (the opposing coach) after mores Logan Brock and Luke who loved to play the game, who the game asked us, 'Are y'all goloved competing, who didn't like ing to make Kerley drive the to lose and just practiced as hard bus home?' He did everything else but drive the bus," Penland said. "He was definitely the focal point and the ring leader."

Along with Kerley, the Frogs will return junior Jimmy Young,

since TCU has four of its top who came 12 yards short of seven receivers back. Still it will 1,000 receiving yards last season, which put him second on the school's single season list. Junior Bart Johnson will also be "He's definitely competitive; back after he caught 15 passes

Despite losing Walter Bryant, who was third on the team in re a bevy of underclassmen ready to go, Patterson said. He named sophomore Antoine Hicks and true freshman Skye Dawson as other players who will play a on offense, is not the first time part in the rotation at wide re-

Tight end is a position at which the Frogs graduated a big red zone target in Shae Reagan. Junior Evan Frosch is the only returning tight end who had a catch last season.

Patterson said the team will use a rotation of four tight ends this season as Frosch, sopho-Corey Fuller will all see playing

With so many players set to rotate on offense, opposing defenses aren't the only ones that Kerley and the crew will keep off

NUMBERS

95

Number of receiving yards last season

Number of rushing yards last season

Number of rushing touchdowns last season

"Since I've been here in '98 with the exception of maybe (LaDainian Tomlinson) and Basil Mitchell in the backfield together, to me overall this offense has more weapons than in any time since I've been here," play-by-play announcer Brian

Estridge said. With all the weapons, it is still Shivers, and redshirt freshman Kerley who creates the most ex-

citement. There were times last year when I thought to myself 'they need to get the ball in Kerley's hands' and I think this year that's not going to be a problem," Estridge said.



Courtsey of ATHLETIC MEDIA RELATIONS
Junior wide receiver Jeremy Kerley had 11 receptions during the 2008 season and was the Frogs' sixth-leading rusher with 143 yards.

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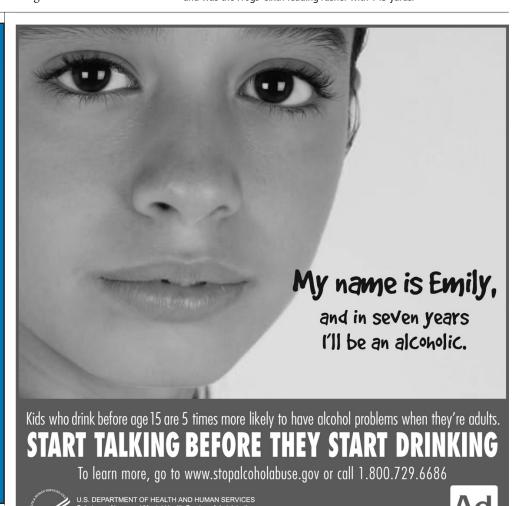
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2009 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Linebackers still strong with loss

By Chris Blake Staff Reporter

Despite graduating two linebackers who were both good enough to get drafted into the NFL, head coach Gary Patterson said he is comfortable with the five linebackers he will use in his rotation this season.

Senior Daryl Washington is the veteran of the corps after he saw action in all 13 of TCU's games a season ago, and is the Frogs top returning tackler after he recorded 63 stops last season.

Washington was named to the watch lists for the Butkus Award, given to the nation's

"Daryl is a fantastic athlete, he's not as big and strong as Brian Urlacher, but he's the fastest linebacker I've ever coached."

Gary Patterson head coach

within five yards of the line of real true freshman. scrimmage, the Bronko Naence.

linebacker for the Chicago a normal player is."

lete," Patterson said. "He's not peras Cove High School as big and strong as Brian Ura nd recorded 693 tackles in lacher, but he's the fastest line- his career there, the school's backer I've ever coached."

Because the Horned Frogs 400 tackles.

NUMBERS

Games played

41

Unassisted tackles last season

Assisted tackles last season

play a 4-2-5 defense, only two linebackers will be on the field at once. The man who will play beside Washington is Tank Carder, a sophomore from Sweeny, who recorded nine tackles last season.

Patterson does not typically give true freshmen too much playing time, evidenced by defensive tackle Kelly Griffin being the only true freshman ever to start every game for Patterson, but that could change with this season's group of linebackers. Tanner Brock and Kenny Cain are both true freshmen who will top linebacker, the Rotary see time in the linebacker ro-Lombardi Award, which will tation, though Patterson said go to the top player who plays he does not consider Brock a

"(Brock) came in the gurski Trophy, awarded to the spring and went through top defensive player, and was all of spring ball, he went named preseason first team through 15 practices, he All-Mountain West Confer- learned the system, he got bigger and stronger in the All these things helped spring and then in sum-Washington earn high praise mer," Patterson said. "Those from Patterson, who com- guys (that come in early) are pared him to a certain All-Pro a lot more mature than what

Brock was a three time "Daryl is a fantastic ath- all-state selection at Copall-time record by more than

Hughes steps up leadership

By Ryne Sulier Staff Reporter

There are a multitude of reasons to get excited about the 2009 football season, but none more obvious thanthe one spotted while driving down Interstate 30 West to Ft. Worth: reason number 98.

Reason number 98 is more than the jersey number of senior defensive end Jerry Hughes seen on billboards across the metroplex. According to head football coach Gary Patterson, number 98 represents an improved and veritable threat for any team poised to take on the Frogs this season.

"In the summertime Hughes was conditioning twice a day when he didn't need to be, while no one was around," Patterson said. "I always have a saying, 'How do you act when I'm not around?' For him- he's unbelievable."

Hughes strengthened his upper and lower body and increased his speed during the offseason, Patterson said.

"At the end of spring I thought he was a better player than he was in the fall," he said. "I don't know if you'll see that in the statistics department because he Hughes, a communications madoesn't have an older defense to play with. A lot of people are "A lot of people are going to double team him, but you'll see him play hard and be a leader."

Hughes said the players on this year's team get along well and are eager to start playing and to get the job done.

'I assume (double teams) are going to come, so I'm going to go play hard myself and allow my teammates to make plays,"

Hughes came to TCU from Sugar Land, Texas as an all-district running back out of Austin community and competition. High School, but the coaches switched him to defensive end when he arrived at the university. year: On top of being named to at SeniorCLASSAward.com in ing workouts and two-a-days terson said.



Hughes made 31 solo tackles and 85 total tackles during the 2008 season.

six awards watch lists, including the Walter Camp Player of NCAA football championship. the Year Award and Pre-season MWC Defensive Player of the awards), it doesn't put too much Year, Hughes was also named an official candidate for the 2009 Lowe's Senior CLASS Award. and play college football."

going to double team him, but you'll see him play hard and be a leader."

Gary Patterson head coach

notable achievements in the cat- a lot better than we were enegories of classroom, character, tering in to the spring. We got

mination of coaches, media and more playing experience." fan voting. Students can vote for

the month leading up to the and are eager to get in games,

"I don't pay attention (to the pressure on me," Hughes said. "I'm just eager to go out there

Hughes, the consensus All-American who led the nation with 15 sacks and six forced a defense that lost seven starters in 2008. While the defensive line will still feature its star DE in Hughes, a multitude of players with limited playing experience will have to step up during the

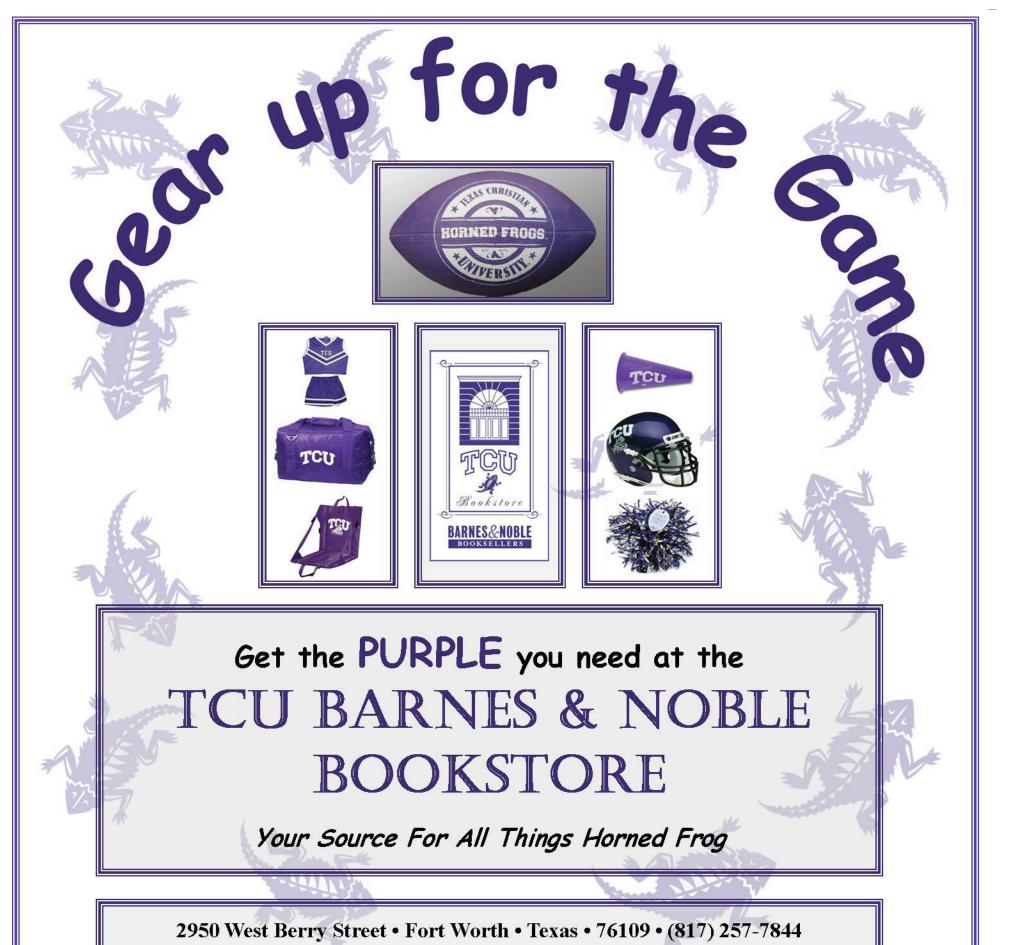
"For us we just need to get

Hughes said.

"I tell the younger guys to go out there in every practice and treat it just like a game," he said. "You have to pick up your intensity and focus in practice because that's what you need in a game."

One player that may benefit fumbles last season, will anchor the most from the focus offensive coordinators will put on Hughes is senior linebacker Daryl Washington, who may have had the type of offseason that will have opposing offensive coordinators worried.

Junior DE Wayne Daniels recorded his first sack in a better and grow up, we were 48-7 win at SMU in 2008, and jor, is on pace to graduate in four young," Patterson said. "For us eight of his 11 tackles during years and was deemed to have we did that. We feel like we are the season were solo tackles. Sophomore DT Ross Forrest and junior NT Kelly Griffin stronger, we got faster we have also played in 11 of 13 games The award is based on a cul- more depth. Now all we need last season. However, with the loss of experienced start-The younger guys stepped ers, the defensive line will ro-The gamble payed off his junior Hughes via text messaging and up in the summertime dur- tate eight to 11 players, Pat-



For an NCAA 10

simulation of the

2009 FOOTBALL PREVIEW

CONFERENCE PREVIEW



Oklahoma defensive end Auston English , left, and safety James Winchester (86) sack BYU quarterback Max Hall, center, in the second half Saturday in Arlington. BYU won 14-13.

Mountain West champion will face tough opposition

By Doug Alden

AP Sports Writer

one of the last six years in the 4 offense, 8 defense. state of Utah.

Horned Frogs came painfullast year, but a mistake-filled fourth quarter allowed Utah to rally for a 13-10 win and an unbeaten season.

frustrating offseason. Repeated pushes for changes in the Bowl Championship Series were unsuccessful despite the MWC having the only unbeaten team in major college football last season.

Utah holds the nation's longest winning streak, finished No. 2 in the final AP poll and revived a cam- quarterback to replace threeseason.

"That's really not my are- ing three assistants. na to lobby and politick for something," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said. "That's something for our commisjust need to try to continue to 6 defense.

win games." on to go 8-0 in the league, a 34-28 loss to Houston in the streak that started with Utah's Armed Forces Bowl. With a 2004.

BYU won back-to-back titles set or two. by going 16-0 through 2006 and 2007. Utah regained the crown last year, but is missterback Brian Johnson and Sakoda. Defensive standouts defense. Paul Kruger and Sean Smith left school early for the NFL.

circumstances," Whittingham said.

Sr.; RB Harvey Unga, Jr.; TE Rams have a difficult schedule The Mountain West Con- Dennis Pitta, Sr.; DE Jan Jorference title has spent all but gensen, Sr. Returning starters: but do get defending champi-

Hall passed for 3,957 yards TCU's 2005 championship and 35 touchdowns last fall, was the only one since 2003 but will be missing his favorite not won by Utah or BYU. The target. BYU's two-year unbeaten streak in the Mountain West ly close to winning another ended last year with losses to TCU and Utah — two teams that have to visit Provo this fall. ... Unga needs 841 yards to tie go on to an MWC title and Curtis Brown's career rushing left his post as offensive coorrecord. ... BCS hopes will begin The league is coming off a or end with the season opener against Oklahoma at the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium.

Utah

Key players: RB Matt Asiata, Sr.; LB Stevenson Sylvester, Sr.; DE Koa Misi. Returning starters: 4 offense, 7 defense.

Utah has the nation's longest which reached 14 when the winning streak at 14 straight Utes beat Alabama 31-17 in games. The Utes return from the Sugar Bowl. The Utes their unbeaten run through 2008 without an experienced paign for change, but coach year starter Brian Johnson. Kyle Whittingham says that Coach Kyle Whittingham also argument ends with the new has new coordinators on both offense and defense after los-

Air Force

Key players: QB Tim Jefferson, So.; RB Asher Clark, coach in Brady Hoke, who sioner, our president and the So.; DB Reggie Rembert, Jr. took Ball State to consecutive athletic directors to debate. I Returning starters: 5 offense,

The Utes became the fifth cons fizzled with two losses to season and allowed an average straight conference champi- end the regular season and a of 37. unbeaten Fiesta Bowl team of year of experience, the young Falcons could make another Sween, Sr.; QB Dax Crum, TCU was 8-0 in 2005, then push if they can pull off an up-

Colorado State

ing three-year starting quar- Stucker, Sr.; RB John Mosure, game the past two seasons, Jr.; LB Mychal Sisson, So. Re- Dave Christensen will try to All-American kicker Louie turning starters: 7 offense, 5

The Rams were the biggest surprise of the league a year 4-8, just 1-7 in the conference "Every year is a new set of ago under new coach Steve to tie for last with San Diego Fairchild, who guided his alma State — the MWC team Wyomater to a 7-6 finish capped ming beat last season.

by a win over Fresno State in Key players: QB Max Hall, the New Mexico Bowl. ... The with games at BYU and TCU, on Utah at home.

New Mexico

Key players: QB Brad Gruner, So.; QB Donovan Porterie, Sr.; WR Chris Hernandez, Jr.; LB Clint McPeek, Sr. Returning starters: 8 offense, 3 defense.

New coach Mike Locksley dinator at Illinois for his first head coaching job after Rocky Long stepped down. The Lobos passed for all of four touchdowns last season.

UNLV

Key players: QB Omar Clayton, Jr.; WR Ryan Wolfe, Sr.; LB Jason Beauchamp, Sr. Returning starters: 6 offense, 8 defense.

After winning two games in each of coach Mike Sanford's first three seasons, the Rebels exploded for five victories last year.

San Diego State

Key players: QB Ryan Lindley, So.; RB Atiyyah Henderson, Sr.; LB Luke Laolagi, Sr. Returning starters: 8 offense,

The Aztecs have a new bowl games in his last two seasons with the Cardinals. The After an 8-2 start, the Fal- Aztecs averaged 19 points last

Wyoming

Key players: QB Karsten Jr.; LB Gabe Knapton, So.; S Chris Prosinski, Jr. Returning starters: 7 offense, 8 defense.

After helping lead Missouri Key players: QB Grant to the Big 12 championship revive Wyoming. The Cowboys finished their last season under coach Joe Glenn at

NCAA 10 good for Frog gamers

By Travis L. Brown Sports Editor

Most preseason college football polls placed the Horned Frog football team at No. 17 in the nation. There is, however, one poll that few account for but that many put stock in each year. It's also the only poll that the college football fan must purchase to access. This ranking system is the NCAA Football franchise from EA Sports.

This year, TCU comes in at No. 19 in the virtual nation, the best rank TCU has been awarded by EA in several years. Just as it is in the real Amon G. Carter Stadium, this representation of the Frogs is led by a much improved and more reliable Andy Dalton at quarterback. Dalton's play making ability and speed are greatly improved in NCAA 10 compared to the '09 offering and gamers will find his heightened ability to throw on the run a valuable asset.

TCU's impact players, or players who have the most game-changing ability, include defensive end Jerry Hughes, halfback Joseph Turner and cornerback Rafael Priest. Hughes was selected a virtual All-American by EA and is the top rated player on the Horned Frog squad with a 94 overall

EA gave TCU a B overall rating in NCAA 10, with a B offense and a B- defense.

The most impressive addition to the TCU playbook in NCAA 10 is the addition of TCU's sneaky Wild Frog formation found listed as "Wild Frog" under the Shotgun package. With a little pre-play tweaking the gamer can drop Jeremy Kerley back in shotgun and send Dalton out wide for the two to connect on an option pass.

A few new aesthetic features were added to TCU in NCAA 10, the most obvious being thew addition of the new Dutch Meyer Athletic Complex & Abe Martin Academic Enhancement Center to Amon Carter Stadium. online and create their own Also, NCAA 10 provides the school and players, and can gamer the ability to customize each team's uniform and offers TCU's black jerseys against Boise State.

10, hit stores July 14. This newest version offers new features the gamer can select a school ultimate goal of being the best franchise is Teambuilder college football analyst Kirk mode, where the user can go Herbstreit.

upcoming Frogs game, check dailyskiff.com. even upload their own logos to put on uniforms and the field.

Vast improvements were worn at home in 2008 against made this year in the career BYU and in TCU's bowl game Road to Glory mode, where gamers take one created play-EA's new offering, NCAA er through their entire college career in quest of a National Championship and a Heisman like Season Showdown, where Trophy. This year, through a partnership with ESPN, reto play for and each game they porter Erin Andrews chronplay tallies points toward the icles the career of the created player using highlights generrepresented school in the na- ated in game play. Her comtion. Also new to the NCAA mentary is assisted by ESPN





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