

# THE SKIFF



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HORNED FROGS TAKE ON TEXAS IN FORT WORTH ON SATURDAY

A STUDENT MEDIA PUBLICATION OF TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

## NEW INTERCULTURAL CENTER ON CAMPUS

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PHOTO BY ARIEL WALLACE

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## CAMPUS NEWS

# TCU iNaturalist project brings students closer to campus wildlife

By **CAMILLA PRICE**

COPY DESK CHIEF, TCU360

Members of the TCU community have recorded more than 600 plant and animal species on campus as part of a global citizen science effort to document wildlife sightings.

Adjunct professor and Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge director Rob Denkhaus founded the TCU Wildlife Project on the iNaturalist platform in 2014 so students in his urban wildlife class could identify campus wildlife.

Denkhaus said he was skeptical when he first heard about iNaturalist, which was founded in 2008.

“I was not 100% on board initially by any means,” said Denkhaus, who added that previous citizen science projects failed to produce quality data.

However, iNaturalist has since grown into one of the most respected and widely used citizen science platforms.

Its 1.8 million users have recorded more than 80 million observations, with more than half classified as “Research grade,” or verified by the iNaturalist community.

Denkhaus said he chose to incorporate iNaturalist as a group project for students in his class as he saw experts across a range of wildlife-related fields embrace the new tool.

“My goal is to make these little things around campus relevant to the average student and it takes advantage of a piece of technology that every student carries

in their hand or their pocket,” he said.

Today, 177 observers have recorded more than 4,400 observations for the TCU Wildlife Project.

Students have documented species including fox squirrels, green anoles and the gray foxes that captivate the TCU community on social media.

Anyone visiting the campus can contribute observations, but the project has been dominated by students in Denkhaus’s urban wildlife class.

“It’s been around long enough and iNaturalist has been around long enough that we’re starting to see people that aren’t associated with the class adding to the data pool, and so we’re actually building much more viable data,” said Denkhaus.

Beyond the facts and figures, though, iNaturalist leaves a lasting impression on its student users and the surrounding community.

### Think global, act local

Gloria Serrano, a senior environmental science major, said she had never heard of iNaturalist before taking Denkhaus’s urban wildlife class.

Now, “I’ve gotten addicted to it!” she said. “We see these animals and insects every day, but we have no idea what they are, and it’s a little bit interesting to just kind of have a little bit more perspective as to what you’re seeing every day.”

Serrano has catalogued more than

160 observations since last year, many of them off-campus.

“I go to Yosemite, I went recently, and then I love using it at my house too because there’s a lot of different bugs,” she said.

Denkhaus takes pride in former students who continue to use iNaturalist to document their experiences in nature.

“One of the biggest reasons that I include it as a part of the class project is because I have a number of folks that are involved in the class, students, who aren’t necessarily environmental science or biology [majors],” he said. “This gives them a potentially lifelong connection to the class if they embrace it.”

Sam Kieschnick, urban wildlife biologist for Texas Parks & Wildlife, said the power of iNaturalist comes from its ability to engage both amateur and professional naturalists.

“It’s a tool that we can all use,” he said.

As a biologist, Kieschnick examines the data gathered by citizens and scientists alike for documentation of invasive species and wildlife population trends due to climate change or seasonal shifts.

However, “The biggest thing that I use it as an urban wildlife biologist is the constituency,” he said.

Kieschnick uses the data to show city council members, land managers and park board staff how DFW residents use and value urban biodiversity.

“I use it to show that yes, there is nature

here, but arguably just as important, there are people who care about nature,” he said.

Kieschnick explained iNaturalist connects people to nature by teaching them about the different species that call the urban environment home.

“The new person sitting next to you, when you learn his or her name, that’s when that relationship starts,” he said. “I bring that up when I talk about iNaturalist [because] your relationship with nature begins with learning the names of the different things that are around you.”

At TCU, Denkhaus hopes to develop field guides describing the different species on campus that could introduce students outside the class to local wildlife and ultimately usher in positive changes in campus sustainability policy.

“I know for a fact that if people know what they’re looking at, they will value it more than if they’re like ‘Oh, it’s a bird,’” he said. “It allows much greater emphasis to be placed on the management of those species.”

Kieschnick encourages students who are interested to join iNaturalist and learn more about the species that live on campus.

“You can contribute to our knowledge of species, but you can also have fun looking for all the different kinds of whatever it might be all of the different kinds of bugs, or birds, or plants out there,” he said.



## The Skiff

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## CAMPUS NEWS

# Night classes become a new reality for most students

By **ELLA GIBSON**

STAFF WRITER, TCU360

Many new night class options were introduced this fall as the university scrambled to adjust to COVID-19 protocols calling first for 6 feet, and later 3 feet, of social distancing.

The protocols have been set aside, but students should get used to the possibility of evening classes.

Registrar Mary Kincannon said night classes will be a feature this spring semester as TCU adjusts to a nearly five percent increase in students.

“In the midst of it all, we were anticipating about 2,200 first-year students,” said Kincannon.

The class of 2025 has about 2,500 students, the largest group among undergraduates.

## Scheduling during a pandemic

The TCU Registrar’s Office is responsible for inputting class schedules into the school system. The office sends requests to department deans, associate deans and chairs for the first pick on class location and times. This year, the Registrar’s Office had to override many requests, due to distancing requirements.

Mary Kincannon, TCU’s registrar, oversees class scheduling. Social distancing requirements of 6 feet were in place as classes were organized in February.

Kincannon explained that social distancing regulations impacted the

scheduling process.

“Most of the classes that we would typically schedule in the lecture halls wouldn’t fit in the lecture halls. We had classes in the BLUU ballroom, the Kelly Center ballroom, the Worth Hills dining area, the big music performance hall,” Kincannon said.

Many classes were moved to untraditional locations, creating roadblocks in overlapping class requests. Courses were moved to later hours of the day to ensure that rooms were not booked by multiple professors. Additionally, the Registrar’s Office had to consider courses that couldn’t take place at the same time because of students who had to be enrolled in both.

The Registrar’s Office has access to a software system that simplifies the process of schedule building. Staff members can submit course locations and times to avoid overbooking.

On Aug. 1, the Registrar’s Office got word that social distancing requirements were decreased to 3 feet. At this time, students had already enrolled in courses. The only change that could be made was to move some classes back to more traditional locations.

## A look into the future

Class scheduling could look different from this point forward.

The Registrar’s Office is processing spring course requests and

beginning the scheduling process. The increase in student body numbers is likely to solidify night classes for the coming semester.

The growing student body is especially putting strain on the bigger classes, such as required first-year courses.

In recent semesters, students have been used to finishing classes in the early hours of the afternoon. This was not the case in previous years.

“There was a pretty strong night school where working people could come in at night and take classes, and over time, earn a degree,” said Kincannon.

Though TCU student involvement must adapt to night classes, the scheduling shift is providing opportunities in other areas of the university. Individuals who work during the day can commute to campus after shifts to attend class and earn their degree at a quicker pace.

## Impact on student involvement

TCU has a high level of student involvement in campus life. The university offers 275 student organizations. Additionally, many students are involved in activities that are not affiliated with the school.

An article by The Wall Street Journal ranking universities in the South even put TCU at the number two spot for student engagement.

“[Student engagement] measures views on things such as



PHOTO BY ELLA GIBSON

TCU’s Music Center lit up at 9:30 p.m. on Thursday. The Music Center is one of the buildings on campus dedicated to the College of Fine Arts.

interactions with faculty and other students, the effectiveness of teaching and whether students would recommend their school,” The WSJ said to describe their rankings.

Extracurricular involvement, being one of the most prominent characteristics of our university, is facing obstacles through the scheduling of night classes.

Allyson Joyce, president of TCU’s “It’s On Us,” meets biweekly at 7 p.m. on Tuesday with the hundreds of members of her club. The club is affiliated with the national organization “It’s On Us,” an organization made to educate and address sexual violence on campuses.

Joyce described the changes that come with their members’ enrollment in night classes.

“A handful have night class conflicts but most just come whenever they are done with class,” said

Joyce.

“It’s On Us” has doubled in membership since last year. Night classes have not affected involvement numbers. Rather, club operations have adapted.

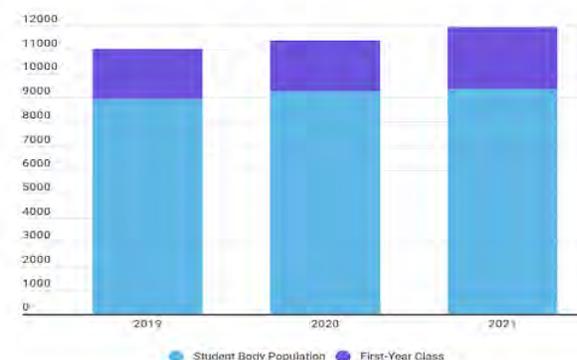
Kendall McCarthy, president of the TCU chapter of “Her Campus,” holds club meetings at 5:30 p.m. on Mondays. “Her Campus” is a campus media outlet for college women. McCarthy shared that the club has a special status for members who have conflicting night classes.

“They want to write

and contribute to our organization, but can’t make it to our regular meetings,” said McCarthy.

“Her Campus” is in its second year of operation at TCU. Contribution is expanding, despite more night classes.

This year has brought new challenges to all aspects of the university. Night classes are now our reality. Though unfamiliar, this change benefits first-year and working individuals, while preserving the health of our student body.



TCU’s student body population during the fall of 2019, 2020, and 2021. University enrollment increased by 4.9% from 2020 to 2021.

## SPORTS

# Front and center: Game day through the eyes of TCU Cheer team

By **ALEXANDRA PREUSSER**  
MANAGING EDITOR, TCU 360

It's four hours before kickoff, and the TCU football team isn't the only group preparing for another game day at Amon G. Carter Stadium.

The TCU Cheer team arrives early to walk through and warm up all of their game elements, but even before that, the team works to perfect cheers and cadences and achieve new skills throughout the week.

"Our practices are held weekly Tuesday and Thursday night for 2.5 hours," Bailey Alexander, a senior nursing major said. "We typically run through our pre-game routine, work on sideline stunts plus material, and condition our tumbling.

We are able to not practice as much during the week, because during the summer we come in for an entire month before school begins and practice 9 to 5 Monday to

Friday."

The rest of the week includes two mandatory workouts at the TCU recreation center, workouts planned by the team's trainer and done on the cheerleaders' own time.

"I typically like to space out my week with workouts Monday and Wednesday, and practice Tuesday and Thursday," Alexander said. "It can be pretty busy, but it is all about time management!"

Two and a half hours before game time, fans can watch the cheer team participate in the Frog Walk, a spirit tradition where the cheer team, Showgirls and band precede the football team into the stadium.

From there, it's go-time. Last-minute makeup and hair touches occur in the locker room, and then the team goes down to the field for one last round of warm-ups.

With 20 minutes on

the clock, the cheerleaders begin their pregame routine, getting everyone in the crowd excited for the game ahead. Part of this includes the team leading the fans in a pregame "Go Frogs" chant, alternating between the east and west sides of the stadium.

During the game, the team will perform to various songs during timeouts and other breaks in play. Fans will see them throw skills like basket catches and standing back tucks during these performances.

Behind all of this preparation is head coach Elizabeth Peterson. The Fort Worth native and LSU alumna heard about

the job opening from a friend and took the opportunity.

Never did she think in

team is very grateful to be back on the sidelines this year doing what they love at full capacity!"

Tryouts for the cheer team are held in April, and the team will meet a few weeks before school starts to begin training.

To try out, students must be accepted to TCU and enrolled in 12 or more credit hours.

During tryouts, the coaches not only look for talent but also leadership qualities, confidence, work ethic, willingness to try new things

and more. Candidates must complete a physical before tryouts and also possess proper physical fitness and training to complete the required skills safely.

Each year, there are not a set number of available spots, so the cut off is determined by the judges' and squad's discretion. The entirely female team typically ranges from 16 to 22 members, and the coed team typically ranges from five to 10 couples.

"The adrenaline running through your body as the cheerleaders lead the stadium is like no other!" Alexander said. "Standing on the field and staring up into the crowd is such a surreal moment that never gets old. It is such an honor to represent the frogs doing something that I love."



PHOTO BY ESAU RODRIGUEZ

TCU Cheer leading the signature "Frogs Up."

her time of coaching that she would have to deal with a pandemic and the challenges it brings.

"Despite many challenges and changes last year, the team pushed through with positive attitudes focused on what we were able to do," Peterson said. "The

The shared passion for cheerleading is a core aspect of the TCU cheer team and one that Peterson values as one of her favorite things about coaching.

"Having an opportunity to influence and be influenced myself by some of Fort Worth's finest young adults and future world changes is a great honor, and I get to do it through our shared passion – cheerleading," Peterson said.

The TCU Cheer team not only cheers at TCU football games but also at other TCU Athletic events like volleyball and basketball games. Although they don't compete in national competitions, the team does facilitate pep rallies and special appearances in the Fort Worth area like community service activities and alumni and civic events.



PHOTO BY HEESOO YANG

In this file photo, cheerleaders cheer from the stands in the Kansas State football game.

## CAMPUS NEWS

# Intercultural Center becomes a safe place for students to gather

By **ARIEL WALLACE**

STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

The Intercultural Center was created for students to celebrate and bring awareness to the diversity and uniqueness of the students on campus.

The Intercultural Center is the newest edition to TCU located in the Brown-Lupton University Union.

It was the result of a list of demands from student leaders in 2017 over issues on campus with diversity and inclusiveness.

The students advocated for a place on campus for minority, international and LGBTQ+ students to be their authentic selves.

Underrepresented

students previously had the second floor in Jarvis Hall but fitting over 300 plus students in that space for events, like Cultural Cuisine, quickly became an issue.

In the list of demands, students originally asked for an entire building, specifically for an Intercultural Center.

What is known as the Intercultural Center today was previously known as “The Pit,” which was used by SGA, TheEnd and theCrew as a meeting and creative space.

Because of the popularity of the Intercultural Center, the Inclusiveness and Intercultural Services have procedures that students and organizations have to go

through before they can use certain parts of the Intercultural Center for events.

To reserve the room, students, faculty and staff must turn in a reservation request form to Dr. Timeka Gordon, director of inclusiveness and intercultural services.

Inclusiveness and intercultural services also ask that people know the difference between needing public and private space in the center, view the recorded Zoom meeting with Dr. Gordon and student leaders and sign the acknowledgment of the policies and procedures of the Intercultural Center.

“We want to make sure that what’s being

done in the space aligns with the views and the purpose we designed this space for. Is it inclusive? Is it championing social justice, advocacy, diversity?”, said Dr. Timeka Gordon.

Organizations that receive approval to use the Intercultural Center are not allowed to make students leave during their events or meetings.

Gordon emphasizes the importance of students being the primary users of the center.

“It is a balancing act to make sure this space continues to be open and accessible to the students, faculty and staff that want to use it, but the students are the priority in this space, and the students that

help make this space a possible will continue to be the priority in this space,” said Gordon.

The first event held in the Intercultural Center was the Welcome Back Mixer on Aug. 25, 2021, hosted by The Office of Student Identify Engagement, which had over 600 students, faculty and staff in attendance.

“That was wonderfully insane! We had students sitting outside on the pavement. It was just that crowded, but that was the sense of community that students have been wanting,” said Gordon. “And giving what has been happening the last 18 months with the pandemic, students were ready to just be reconnected.”

Helen To, a freshman pre-business major, said, “there are so many places(s) on campus we can hang out and study, but this place feels special because it is [for] international students,” said To. “I think everyone is very friendly and has helped me develop more meaningful relationships on campus.”

Dr. Gordon and The Office of Inclusiveness and Intercultural Services encourage students to visit the Intercultural Center and enjoy the different events held by the Gender Resource Office, International Services and the Office of Student Identity Engagement like Sip and Tea, Cultural Cuisine and Donuts and Dialogue.

## SPORTS

# No. 8 TCU soccer stunned by Baylor, suffers first conference loss

By **ANDRE GIAMMATTEI**

STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

Despite a late comeback effort, No. 8 TCU couldn’t catch up to a strong start by Baylor on Sunday, falling 1-2 at home to the Bears for TCU’s second loss in three games.

The Horned Frogs were in control of the ball for most of the game, but they could not cash in on early looks at scoring and fell into a 2-0 deficit just after the midway point courtesy of goals by Baylor in the 13th and 50th minutes.

TCU fought to get back into the game and gave itself a chance with a goal from junior

Grace Collins in the 84th minute, but it was not enough, giving Baylor the 2-1 road victory.

The Frogs dominated possession early in the game but failed to find the back of the net.

“We weren’t dangerous enough,” coach Eric Bell said. “We didn’t create enough goal-scoring opportunities, and if we did, we didn’t hit the target. We didn’t make the goalkeeper make saves.”

The first clear opportunity came in the 4th minute when senior midfielder Payton Crews ventured into the box and squared the ball to senior forward Messiah Bright, who missed the

tap in.

Nine minutes later, senior midfielder Taylor Moon had the first shot of the afternoon for Baylor, and with a little bit of luck, managed to open up the score.

Moonstruck from outside the box and the ball deflected off of first-year defender Brenna Brosam to sneak past sophomore goalkeeper Lauren Kellett, who was going the opposite direction.

Despite the early goal, TCU continued to control the ball, preventing Baylor from getting any more momentum for the rest of the first half.

In the 50th minute, though, a cross deflected

by the TCU defense found junior forward Elizabeth Kooiman in the left side of the box. With her left foot, Kooiman shot over Kellett and put the ball in the upper-right corner to double the lead for Baylor.

TCU responded by pushing its lines forward in an attempt to get back in the game. Bright, Collins, and senior midfielder Payton Crews all tried their luck but were not able to find the target.

With six minutes left in the game, Collins crossed a ball into the box and it hit the arm of graduate defender Sarah Norman, earning

the Frogs a penalty kick that Collins herself would convert.

TCU was not giving up just yet, with multiple chances to tie the game.

First, it was Collins with a shot from slightly inside the box that went high, but it was the next shot sucked the air out of the stadium.

In the 89th minute, first-year forward Camryn Lancaster found space to shoot from distance and hit the bottom of the crossbar. The ball bounced but it was unclear if it went past the goal line before graduate keeper Jennifer Wandt corralled it. Both teams looked at the officials pleading their

case but referee Corey Rockwell did not award the goal.

“At the end of the day, I told them it doesn’t matter about this or that, the ball going over the line or it didn’t. We just gotta figure out a way to win,” Bell said.

The Frogs outshot the Lady Bears 21-9, but TCU was not able to find the equalizer.

TCU will go back on the road to face Texas on Thursday. The Longhorns will be coming off a 4-3 overtime victory against Oklahoma. The kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m., and the game will be broadcasted on The Longhorn Network.

# TCU *vs.* TEXAS

11am, Oct. 2, Amon G. Carter Stadium

## The New York Times Edited by Will Shortz

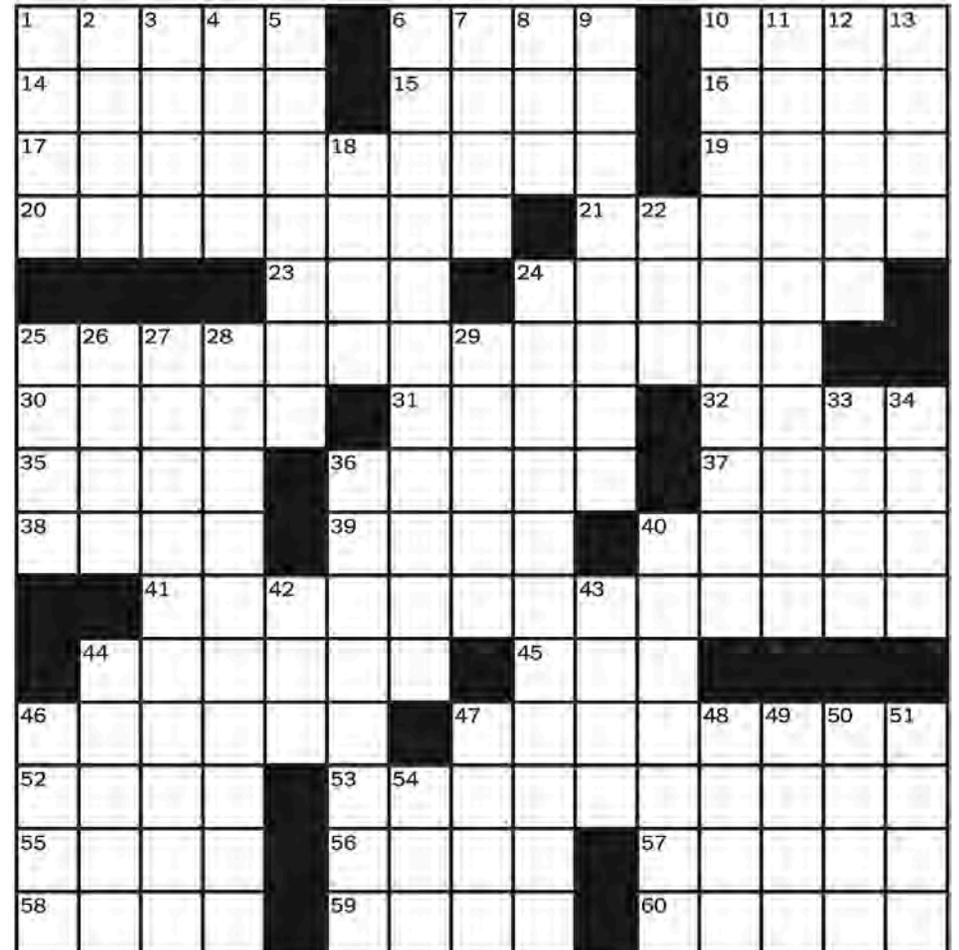
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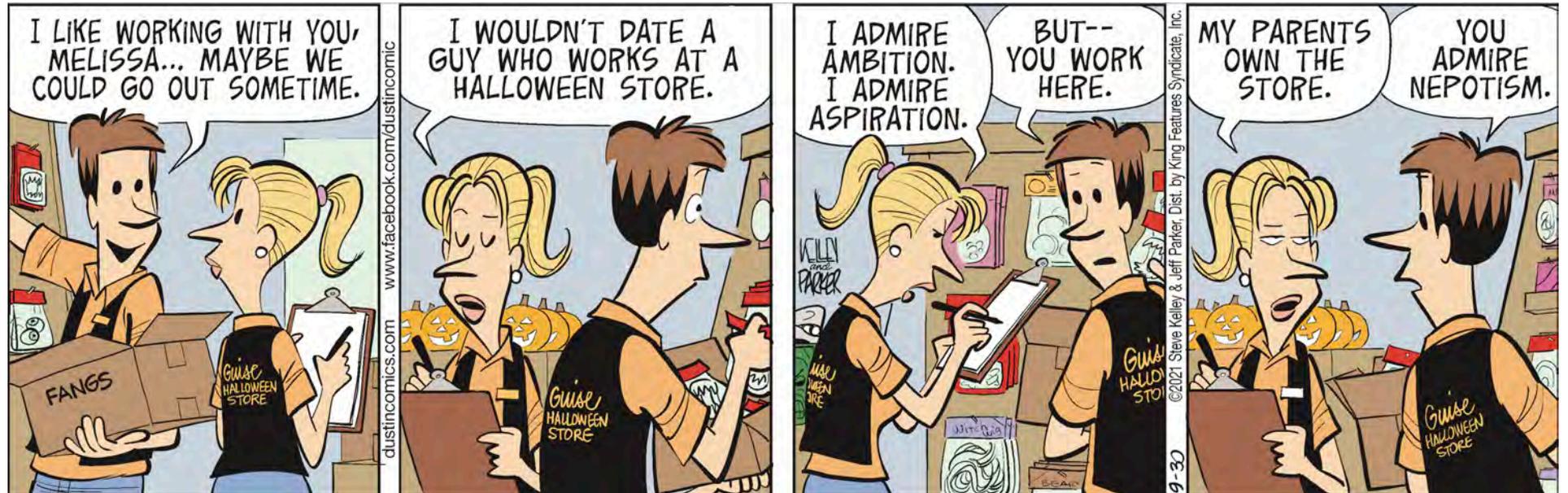
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Dustin by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Horoscope

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ Although this is not an excellent day for financial negotiations, you might come out smelling like a rose. Be careful, because today is not good for spending money. Tonight: Get out and mingle.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You are the financial wizard of the zodiac so be aware of today's challenge. Restrict spending to food, and avoid important decisions. Nevertheless, another influence encourages doing business with bosses. Tread carefully! Tonight: Relax.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Avoid important decisions today and restrict your spending to food and

gas. Be careful when making decisions about work-related because you might go overboard. Do your homework but wait until tomorrow to act. Tonight: Talk to someone.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ This is a fantastic, creative day! If you work in the arts, the entertainment world or in hospitality, you will come up with original, imaginative ideas. Make note of them. Write them down. Socialize! Tonight: Check finances.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ This is a great day to entertain at home and enjoy the company of others. You might be tempted to do a real-estate deal today because it seems too good to be true. Nevertheless, it's a bad time to sign a paper or commit to any real-estate negotiations. Forewarned is

forearmed. Tonight: You rule!

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You have a fantastic way with words today, which is why you can sweet talk anyone. Today, some of you will make money from your words. Be aware of today's restrictions on shopping or decisions. Hold back for most of the day. Tonight: Solitude.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ You're energetic because the Sun and Mars are in your sign. Furthermore, this is a fabulous money day. You can boost your earnings, and will enjoy spending money. It's bad for shopping or important decisions. Be careful! Tonight: Socialize!

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ This is a fabulous day to entertain at home and enjoy the company of others. By all means, grab every opportunity to relax.

Postpone shopping and important decisions until afterward. Enjoy! Tonight: You are noticed.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ This is a popular time for you; however, you might enjoy some solitude today. It's a perfect day to relax and pamper yourself. You can't be all things to all people all the time. Set aside some time today just for you. Tonight: Explore!

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ This is a lovely day to socialize. You will enjoy their company and vice versa, they will be glad to see your face. However, don't volunteer for anything today. Postpone important decisions when talking to bosses and VIPs. Tonight: Check financial agreements.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Travel and enjoy socializing with others. You make a great impression on bosses and important people today. (A romance might strike up for some.) Tonight: Cooperate.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You might be focused

on shared property and financial matters, and making travel plans. Nevertheless, most of today is a poor day for important decisions or shopping (other than food and gas). Be careful! Tonight: Help someone.



## SPORTS

# Carter determined to lead TCU football back to form defensively

By COLIN POST

SPORTS EDITOR, TCU360

TCU fans are used to seeing a player with the number “7” on his back darting all over the field and making plays on defense.

Over the last two seasons, safety Trevon Moehrig, who wore the number for his sophomore and junior campaigns, put together one of the greatest safety careers in the history of TCU football.

Now, Moehrig makes plays for the NFL’s Las Vegas Raiders, and a new face wears the number “7,” though many at Amon G. Carter Stadium may not even know his name.

Memphis transfer T.J. Carter now rocks the same threads in which Moehrig once dominated, and the seasoned safety is determined to help the TCU defense bounce back from one of their worst performances in recent history.

“Short memory,” Carter said of his message to younger guys after the SMU loss. “I was already thinking about Texas right after the game. We lost? So what? Next game.”

The Frogs gave up 350 rushing yards to SMU (6.7 yards per carry), which was the most they had conceded since the Jalen Hurts-led Oklahoma Sooners rushed for 366 yards in their 2019 matchup.

To make matters worse, TCU missed 20 total tackles as a team in the contest, with Carter leading the team with four missed tackles of his

own.

“I feel like that’s more just ‘want to’ more than anything. It’s nothing with technique or anything like that, it’s just ‘want to.’ Get your guy on the ground,” Carter said of the missed tackles. “They [SMU], obviously, came out and were more physical than us the whole game, and I feel like that’s the reason they came out on top.”

To put it simply: Carter and TCU got out-worked by SMU on their own field last Saturday.

When talking to the media on Tuesday, though, Carter said there’s more to TCU’s struggles than meet the eye, as the Frogs had several defenders in new positions or playing serious minutes for the first time on Saturday.

This, Carter noted, led to the several miscommunications that were noticeable amidst members of TCU’s secondary from the opening moments of the Battle for the Iron Skillet.

“That’s the biggest problem right now—miscommunication on the back end and stuff like that,” Carter said. “A lot of us, it’s our first time playing on the back end and some guy’s first time even starting.”

Carter himself was one of those players in a new spot, as head coach Gary Patterson moved him from free safety to cornerback the week before the matchup with their cross town rivals.

On SMU’s third play from scrimmage, Carter and linebacker Dee Winters both jumped to

defend SMU tight end Grant Calcaterra, leaving wide receiver Danny Gray wide open for a 68-yard touchdown.

Carter said that miscues like that will be rooted out from the Frogs’ defensive showing through increased repetitions and chemistry.

Besides the miscommunication with Winters and the missed tackles, Carter was actually one of the few defenders who showed signs of excellence on Saturday, recording six tackles and giving up zero catches in coverage.

Over the course of the game, the graduate transfer had played in three positions (cornerback, free safety, weak safety), desperately trying to hold together a TCU defense that struggled to find any consistency against the Mustangs.

“When we moved him [Carter] to corner, he did a great job,” Patterson said. “Then we lost two safeties and then a third safety.”

Similar to the weight of wearing a former TCU legend’s number, though Carter is not phased by the daunting task of being asked to carry a heavy load.

“I like a challenge. It was really more fun than anything,” Carter said. “Some guys went down, so I had to step up and just move around.”

Carter’s ability to move positions the week of a game comes at no surprise, as he was a four-year starter at cornerback for the Memphis Tigers before



PHOTO COURTESY OF @TCUFOOTBALL'S TWITTER

Memphis transfer T.J. Carter (7) wants to help TCU get their mojo back as Big 12 play begins this Saturday.

transferring to TCU in January.

Over his 46 games played for the Tigers, Carter amassed 187 tackles, 40 pass defenses, seven interceptions (including a pick six) and three forced fumbles.

One of the great defenders in Memphis history, Carter was also a leader off the field, appearing on the AAC All-Academic Team, Dean’s List and Tiger 3.0 club during the 2017-2018 school year.

When asked why he chose to spend his COVID-19 year at TCU, Carter said, “Coach Patterson,” describing the 21st-year head coach as a “hall of fame coach.”

Though Carter admitted that moving to safety when he came to TCU was a challenge, he said that the versatility that he has shown between the two positions is beneficial both for the Horned Frogs and his future NFL career.

“Showing versatility

is always good for scouts at the next level,” Carter said. “Whatever I can do to help my team be successful, that’s what I’m here for.”

Three games into the 2021 season, Carter has shown flashes of what made him a standout at Memphis, recording 13 tackles (second on team behind Winters) and giving up zero catches in coverage.

“I’m still learning, of course. It’s a tough defense,” Carter said. “Coach Patterson’s defense is a tough defense; but I’m enjoying the process, and that’s all that matters.”

As TCU tries to bounce back from an embarrassing loss to one rival, Carter and the Frogs have an even bigger test coming to town this weekend in the Texas Longhorns.

Despite their week two loss to Arkansas, the Longhorns look as sharp as anyone in the Big 12 right now following a monstrous 70-35 win

over Texas Tech last Saturday.

With the narrative being that TCU “owns” Texas (7-2 since TCU joined the Big 12), Carter is simply worried about the Frogs learning from their week 3 failures and getting back in the win column.

“They look at it like a big rivalry,” Carter said. “TCU won the last couple of years, but to me, it’s just the next game, getting ready for the next game and making sure we come out on top.”

Regardless of their opponent, Carter has goals for the Horned Frogs this season that remain intact, and he plans to do whatever he can on the field to get TCU their defensive mojo back.

TCU takes on Texas this Saturday at 11 a.m. at Amon G. Carter Stadium, and the game will be televised on ABC.