

Texas Tech, BP, and conference expansion

June 8, 5:13 AM · Jerry Moore - Texas Tech Red Raiders Examiner



Texas Tech is looking to lower the boom on teams in the Pac 16.

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Texas Tech is clearly still behind UT on the field but can point to success against the other big name programs like Nebraska and Texas A&M. Tech has a four game winning streak against Nebraska and has won 11 of the last 15 against A&M. The Red Raiders do not need to make any apologies for their football team. To paraphrase Coach Tuberville at his initial press conference, at times Tech has been as good as anyone in the country over the past few years.

Texas Tech needs to make sure they blow their own horn about the research they are doing. It is past time for those who question whether Tech really belongs in the Pac 10 or Big 10 to come to grips with the facts. Objections to Tech may have more to do with elitist pre-concieved notions than with the actual facts about Texas Tech.

It sounds like one of those lists that everyone saw in elementary school: Texas Tech, BP, and conference expansion. The next thing someone might expect to be asked is to pick the one that does not belong with the other two. In this case they really do all belong together. The BP oil spill in the gulf may have a fortunate side effect for Texas Tech and future oil spills.

Fans and administrators from other universities have been lining up to criticize Texas Tech's academic standing as a Tier 3 university. Those critics choose to ignore that Tech is being fast tracked for Tier 1 status. Thanks to Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar , Texas Tech may have ground breaking research to shut everyone up.

[The EPA has approved](#) Fibertect which is Dr. Ramkumar invented using West Texas cotton. Fibertect could be used to clean up the oil spill in the gulf. It has been tested against and beat human hair, wool, and synthetic polypropylene. Not only can Fibertect absorb refined and crude oil, it can also soak up carcinogenic vapors that can be created by crude oil.

Critics will have a hard time attacking Tech's research credentials if the university is seen as playing a major role in cleaning up the gulf and advancing the technology to clean up future oil spills. Texas Tech does not need to prove that they are on an academic par with the Stanford's or the world. All they need to do is establish that the university is doing important research and make any discussions about expansion solely about the strength of the football team.

If the discussion is only about football, Tech can make the case that they are at worst the third best program in the Big 12 over the past decade. In fact the Red Raiders can argue that they are making strides toward catching Oklahoma since they finished ahead of the Sooners last season and have gone 3-3 against the Sooners in football over the last six seasons, with the home team winning each game.

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