

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

ATHLETICS

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Contact: Ben Greenberg, SID (479) 968-0645

ARKANSAS TECH WONDER BOYS FOOTBALL RELEASES ITS 10-GAME SCHEDULE FOR 2006

RUSSELLVILLE, Arkansas – Arkansas Tech University Head Football Coach and Athletic Director **Steve Mullins** announced his team's 2006 season schedule on Wednesday.

The Wonder Boys are scheduled to play 10 games this upcoming season, including playing five of those 10 games at Russellville High School's Cyclone Stadium.

"This is tough and challenging schedule this season for our football team," Mullins said. "One factor is that we're not going to be able to play at Buerkle Field and secondly, we have to play back-to-back weeks in September on the road at Valdosta State and North Alabama.

"No other team in our conference faces that type of travel challenge this season."

Tech will not be playing any games at Buerkle Field this season due to the construction on the stadium as part of the school's \$4-million "Return to Glory" capital campaign. Instead, all of Tech's five home games will be played at Cyclone Stadium on the Russellville High School campus.

"We're grateful that RHS is allowing us the opportunity to play our home games at their facility, but it is not the same as being able to play at Buerkle Field," said Mullins. "Over the years, we've had a great home record at Buerkle."

Tech will open its 92nd season of football on Thursday, August 31, at Cyclone Stadium against Northeastern [OK] State. Kickoff for the season opener is set for 7 p.m. Tech opened the 2005 season with a thrilling come from behind 35-32 win in Tahlequah against the Redmen. NSU leads the all-time series against Tech, 19-16-3.

"The NSU series is a good one for our team," Mullins said. "The games have always been competitive and tough, which is good way to open the season."

Following the Northeastern State game, Tech will hit the road for its second and final non-conference tune-up as they will play on Saturday, Sept. 9, against Texas College in Tyler, Texas. Kickoff for the Texas College is tentatively set for 7 p.m.

"Texas College was a late addition since we had to pickup a 10th game due to the change in the GSC schedule," the 10th-year Tech coach said. "They were the only option available to us and they will return the game in 2007 to open up the renovated Buerkle Field."

Following its two non-conference tilts, the Wonder Boys will begin a stretch of eight consecutive Gulf South Conference games beginning on Saturday, Sept. 16 when West Georgia comes to Cyclone Stadium for a 6 p.m. contest.

After West Georgia, Tech will hit the road for two successive weekends playing at Valdosta State on Saturday, Sept. 23 and then playing on Saturday, Sept. 30 at North Alabama. Kickoff for both of those games is tentatively set for 6 p.m. After the two-week road swing, Tech will return to Cyclone Stadium for its Homecoming Game on Saturday, Oct. 7 against Delta State at 3 p.m.

"We have to play the top four teams in the league on four straight weekends to open up conference play," Mullins said. "That in itself will present a difficult challenge to our football team."

Following the DSU game, Tech will remain at home to host Henderson State on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 1 p.m., before hitting the road for games at Ouachita Baptist on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 1:30 p.m. and Southern Arkansas on Saturday, Oct. 28 at 2 p.m. The Wonder Boys will conclude the regular season on Saturday, Nov. 4 at Cyclone Stadium against Harding at 1 p.m.

Originally the SAU game was scheduled to be in Russellville, as Tech played last season in Magnolia.

"We will travel once again to Magnolia this season to accommodate the GSC," Mullins added.

Mullins said that the schedule is subject to some change should Tech be selected to play any games on television next season as part of the GSC Game of the Week package, but that the television schedule has yet to be finalized for next season, according to GSC Commissioner **Nate Salant**.

"We have told the league that we are not going to be hosting any games on television next season at home due to the change in venue," Mullins said.

2006 ARKANSAS TECH FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Thursday, Aug. 31 – vs. Northeastern [OK] State, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 9 – at Texas College, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 16 – vs. West Georgia (Parent's Weekend), 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 23 – at Valdosta State, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 30 – at North Alabama, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 7 – vs. Delta State (Homecoming), 3 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 14 – vs. Henderson State, 1 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 21 – at Ouachita Baptist, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 28 – at Southern Arkansas, 2 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 4 – vs. Harding (Senior Day), 1 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 11 – OPEN

Saturday, Nov. 18 – NCAA D-II Playoffs – 1st round

Home games are in BOLD

All home games in 2006 will be played at Russellville High School's Cyclone Stadium

All times are CST and are subject to change

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