

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

ATHLETICS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 18, 2005

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

TECH FOOTBALL MOVES UP TO 13TH AND 17TH RESPECTIVELY IN THIS WEEK'S AFCA, D2FOOTBALL.COM POLLS

RUSSELLVILLE, Arkansas – Arkansas Tech Football moved up one spot to 13th in this week's American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Division II poll released on Tuesday and the Wonder Boys also moved up one spot to 17th in this week's D2Football.com poll.

This week's AFCA poll had some changes as three of the Top 10 team's lost last weekend.

Tech, who improved to 6-1 overall and 5-1 in the GSC with last Saturday's 49-35 home win over Ouachita Baptist, received 318 points in this week's poll to move up to 13th after being 14th last week.

The poll is voted on by 25 AFCA-member head coaches from NCAA Division II schools from around the country. The coaches will vote every Sunday during the regular season and the poll will be distributed on Tuesdays. Among the voters in the poll is Tech Head Football Coach **Steve Mullins**.

Tech is one of four GSC schools ranked in both the AFCA and D2Football.com polls this week.

Despite the upsets in the Top 10, the top three teams remained unchanged for the third consecutive week as Grand Valley State (7-0) received 15 of the poll's 25 first-place votes and earned 615 points to remain No. 1, while North Dakota (8-0) earned the other 10 first-place votes and 610 points to stay at No. 2 and Valdosta State (7-1), a 31-19 victor last Saturday over West Alabama, is third.

Following the top three, the poll has some changes as Bloomsburg [PA] (8-0) moving up from No. 7 to No. 4, while Albany State (5-1) moves up from No. 8 to No. 5 this week. East Stroudsburg [PA] (6-1) headlines the next five at No. 6, while West Texas A&M (8-0) moves up to No. 7 and St. Cloud State (7-1) moves up from 12th to No. 8 after its 24-17 win over then-No. 5 South Dakota. Northwood [MI] (7-1) and Washburn (7-1) round out this week's Top 10.

Saginaw Valley State (6-1) headlines the second 10 at No. 11 after falling from No. 4 thanks to its 31-10 loss to top-ranked Grand Valley State. Following Saginaw Valley is South Dakota (7-1) at No. 12 and then comes Tech at No. 13. Following Tech at No. 14 is North Alabama (6-1), who moved up from 17th after its 38-10 win over Henderson State and then Shepherd [WV] moves up one spot to 15th this week. Presbyterian (7-1) moves up one

spot to No. 16, while Tuskegee (6-1) falls two spots to 17th despite its 27-14 win over Fort Valley State. Pittsburg State (6-2) jumps two spots to No. 18 and Tarleton State (6-1) and Northwest Missouri State (5-2) round out the Top 20.

This week's final five begins with St. Augustine's (8-0) and Texas A&M-Kingsville (5-2) being tied for 21st. Central Arkansas (6-2) moves up two spots to 23rd after its 41-31 win last Saturday over Delta State, while Carson-Newman (5-2) and Michigan Tech (5-2) round out this week's poll at 24th and 25th respectively.

Delta State (4-4) was the only other GSC team to receive votes in this week's poll.

Meanwhile, in the D2Football.com poll, Valdosta State remained 3rd this week, while North Alabama moved up one spot to 10th. Tech moves to 17th this week and Central Arkansas enters the poll at No. 21 after its victory over Delta State.

Tech returns to action this coming Saturday when they travel to play at Arkansas-Monticello (1-7 overall, 1-5 GSC). Kickoff is set for 3 p.m. at Cotton Boll Stadium in Monticello.

Other Tech Football News:

* - In the latest NCAA Division II football statistics, Tech is 7th in team punt returns (16.41 yards per return), is ranked 29th in passing offense (253.7 yards per game), is 42nd in total offense (392.3 yards per game), is 36th in net punting (33.0 yards per punt) and is 32nd in scoring offense (31.7 points per game). In the individual NCAA statistics, redshirt freshman running back **Tracey Stiger** (Russellville, Ark.) is 7th in punt returns (18.1 yards per return) and 43rd in all-purpose yards (132.1 yards per game), while senior quarterback **Jason Campbell** (San Jose, Calif.) is 26th in total offense (251.3 yards per game). Senior punter **Glenn Wilson** (Conroe, Texas) is 17th in punting (40.1 yard average), while senior linebacker **Mike Houston** (West Memphis, Ark.) is 44th in total tackles (9.7 tackles per game).

-- Tech Athletics --