

Team grows stronger despite loss of centennial game, ending 13-year winning streak

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No one thought it would ever happen.

It seemed impossible, as if a 13-year winning streak guaranteed another year of success.

But all things must come to an end, the good and the bad alike, and the Texas Tigers fell short to the Arkansas Hogs in the third round of overtime during the 100th game of the rivalry, 14-20.

"Leading up to the game, I felt like we were prepared, but at the same time our team as a whole was a little too comfortable in thinking we would beat Arkansas," senior KJ Reid said. "I was really excited for the game and had a lot of anticipation because it was my last, but in the end I don't think we played to the best of our ability."

Though many hours of dedication and planning had been poured into this single game, players admitted they didn't give Arkansas enough credit.

"We didn't work as hard in practice because we expected to win," junior Jacorien Walker said. "Afterward, we realized that no matter who our opponent is we have to practice like we're playing a state championship. It definitely taught us not to underestimate someone."

The loss shook up more that just the

football team, according to drill team member junior Elizabeth Tullis.

"Although every loss is disappointing in some way, this one really seemed to hit home for me," Elizabeth said.

"The Texas vs. Arkansas game is what you think of when you here Texas High football, so losing such a big rivalry game, especially on the anniversary, was unexpected and devastating for more than just the football players."

Even though the loss was devastating, students still enjoyed showing their school pride through the many festivities of the week.

"Particularly, I enjoyed the bacon fry being that it is a senior year tradition," senior Mackenzie Nixon said. "Since it is my last year, it was very memorable because I was able to spend it with my drill team friends."

Through this defeat, the Tigers learned how to recover from loss and learn from their mistakes. The juniors in particular learned to approach every game with humble confidence.

"We learned to take the game more seriously," junior Alyass Spiller said. "As a team we need to be more consistent, just like we're always told to do. We could have done better offensively but also could have stopped the defensive line more as well."



k. brinkmeyer

After everything was said and done and the initial shock wore off, students and football players realized that this loss only gave the Tigers a chance to come back stronger than ever before.

"You can't go into a game thinking you're just going to dominate. You have to work hard for everything," junior Chaz Davis said. "Next year against Arkansas we are not going to slack at practice anymore that week, and it'll hopefully just be a whole different mentality. Our loss this year made us stronger and brought us together as a team."

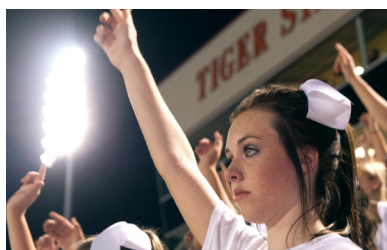
## game changer

Arkansas High player Andrew Bishop scores the game-winning touchdown during overtime at the 100th anniversary game of the crosstown rivals. The Arkansas win broke the Tiger's 13-year winning streak. "I was trying to catch him, but it was already too late; he was too close to the end zone," senior Marquan Tucker said. "I just broke down after that. I felt sad inside. I felt like we shouldn't have lost."

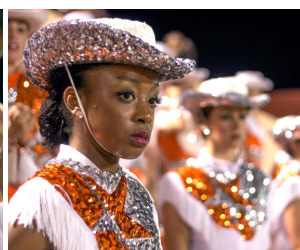
## failure does not define us

Comforting his friend on the field, senior Gage Martin gives encouraging words to junior Jaylen Rhone. "Jaylen was a teammate of mine last year during the basketball season," Gage said. "He's a good person and didn't need to be down. He has a lot of things to look forward to in the future." Gage tried to inspire Jaylen not focus on the loss, but what he could learn from it instead. "I told him to keep his head up and that it's just one game," Gage said. "He knew when he walked out that someone is going to win and someone is going to lose. You don't always win. He has to look forward to the next game because I know he's going to do better."

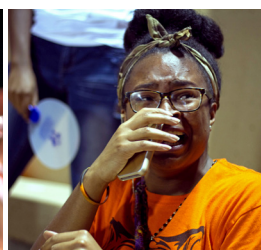
k. brinkmeyer



Abby Norton, 10/k. mccastrand



Mackenzie Nixon/r. lewis



Aliyah Epps, 12/s. rogers

## 50 years a tiger

Al Hanna receives recognition for being longtime football radio announcer



s. mitchard

Given a commemorative football from the centennial game, longtime radio announcer Al Hanna exits the field with school board member Paul Miller, Trochia and senior Caroline Purtle after being recognized for his 50 years of service. Hanna died a few months later on Nov. 6. "He was truly a great man and loved the Tigers," Principal Brad Bailey said. "If you didn't get a chance to meet Mr. Hanna, you could always be his friend on the radio as he provided information to you on sports in the community and would make you feel part of the game as the voice of Texas High."