

THE SKIFF



PAGE 2
MAN ARRESTED BY
FWPD ON TCU
CAMPUS AFTER
POLICE PURSUIT

A STUDENT MEDIA PUBLICATION OF TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

STUDENTS FIGHT TO SAVE HORNED FROGS

STARTS ON PAGE 4





PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFFREY MCWHORTER/TCU MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION)



hitch®

Go the distance with Hitch.

We can't find you love, but we can find you a ride!

No, we're not a dating app, but we do offer private and shared rides between cities! Hitch a ride from Ft. Worth to Austin, Houston, College Station, and more! 50% off your first three rides! *Use code **TCUNews2**. *Discount applies up to \$25 off ▶   RideHitch.com

CAMPUS NEWS

Fort Worth Police arrests man on TCU campus after pursuit

By **DEREK LYTLE**

STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

and **JD PELLIS**

EXECUTIVE EDITOR, TCU 360

The Fort Worth Police Department arrested a man outside of the Sid W. Richardson Building following a police pursuit Tuesday night.

The suspect had been

reported in a domestic situation that occurred off-campus and was pursued from South Hills to TCU campus, where the suspect threatened suicide on the ramp of Sid W. Richardson until police negotiated a surrender.

“We were responding to a stalking, domestic call [for a] guy who

had beat his girlfriend multiple times,” a Fort Worth Police Officer said at the scene.

The pursuit began in South Hills, and after police lost sight of the suspect, he was reported being seen at McDonald’s on the outskirts of the TCU campus.

The police said the man was suffering

from wounds caused by jumping over multiple fences.

TCU Police alerted students to stay clear of the investigation scene at approximately 6:26 p.m. but have since indicated that the scene of the incident is now clear.

The Van Cliburn International Piano Competition returns to TCU

By **ELLA GIBSON**

STAFF WRITER, TCU 360

The Van Cliburn competition — on hiatus for a year due to COVID-19 — will return to TCU’s campus this spring as young pianists from across the globe come to Fort Worth to showcase their skills.

It will be the 16th competition that was founded to honor Cliburn, who in 1958 won the first-ever International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow during the Cold War. Fort Worth music enthusiasts and civic leaders staged the competition four years later to honor Cliburn. Until the COVID-19 pandemic, the competition was held every four years.

Beyond its unconventional timeline, many aspects of this year’s competition will stray from tradition.

Almost 400 digital applications were initially submitted from around the globe in October. A 34% rise from the previous competition, this application pool proves the global expansion of the Cliburn

name.

The screening jury will review applications and narrow the group to 135 pianists. They will pick 72 competitors to travel to Fort Worth in March and perform live screening auditions. All screening auditions will now take place at TCU’s PepsiCo Recital Hall.

The auditions will provide another opportunity for the Fort Worth community to attend the competition. These rounds will take place from March 6 through March 12 and are open to the public for free.

Thirty pianists will be invited back to Fort Worth for the next rounds of the competition, taking place from June 2 through June 18.

Competitors will stay with a host family for the duration of the competition. Each house will have a piano for the artist to practice on, provided by Steinway.

Though many students do not have the ability to host a pianist for two weeks, there are countless other opportunities to become involved. From airport

transportation, to shop volunteers, to ushers, students are welcomed and encouraged to be a part of the process. Individuals can also volunteer as social hosts by introducing competitors to Fort Worth culture.

Maggie Estes, director of communications and digital content at Cliburn, shared how Fort Worth’s community sets the competition apart.

“I would say that the biggest thing that sets us apart is Fort Worth because it’s maybe unexpected when you don’t know our world,” said Estes. “The audiences in Fort Worth are very warm. And that’s one thing that they always remark on.”

The Cliburn aims to launch careers, but also follow up personally with competitors. Many of the pianists return to Fort Worth in later years to visit their host family.

The preliminary and quarterfinal rounds are set at TCU’s Van Cliburn Concert Hall for the first time in the program’s history. The hall will host two rounds of solo piano recitals. The rounds took place in Bass

Performance Hall prior to this year.

The semifinal and final rounds will take place at Bass Hall, where pianists will later be joined by an orchestra. Early plans for this hall were created after the 1978 Cliburn competition, when the city acknowledged that existing performance venues had major acoustic defects.

This year, TCU will play a greater role in the competition than ever before. If not volunteering, students can watch, listen and be a part of the Fort Worth crowd that makes the competition so special.

“It’s just a really unique experience,” said Estes. “And it’s only every four years, so taking advantage of that while they’re here is really great.”

The Van Cliburn International Piano Competition is a chance for the TCU community to witness some of the world’s top pianists. Van Cliburn’s legacy is carried on in the city of Fort Worth, though the character of Fort Worth impacts Cliburn competitors just the same.



The Skiff

TCU Box 298050

Fort Worth, TX 76129

skiff-editor@tcu360.com

Phone (817) 257-3600

Fax (817) 257-7133

Editor LONYAE COULTER

Design Editor

Kristen Pastrano

Chief Ad Designer

Tatum Smith

Associate Editor

Grace Morison

Director of Student Media Sales and Operations

Leah Griffin

Director of Student Media

Jean Marie Brown

Chair, Department of Journalism

Uche Onyebadi, Ph. D

Distribution: Newspapers are available free on campus and surrounding locations, limit one per person. Additional copies are \$.50 and are available at the Skiff office.

The Skiff is an official student publication of Texas Christian University, produced by students of TCU and sponsored by the TCU Department of Journalism. It operates under the policies of the Student Media Committee. The Skiff is published Thursdays during fall and spring semesters except finals week and holidays.

COPYRIGHT All rights for the entire contents of this newspaper shall be the property of the Student Media. No part thereof may be reproduced or aired without prior consent of the Student Media Director. The Skiff does not assume liability for any product and services advertised herein. Liability for misprints due to our error is limited to the cost of the advertising.

The Skiff

Circulation: 1,000

Subscriptions: 817-257-6274

Rates are \$30 per semester.

Moudy Building South

Newsroom, Room 212

2805 S. University Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76109

Sponsored Content

Meet Hitch: It's like uber, but for longer distances.

A new ride share company has launched on campus and it makes traveling throughout Texas more convenient and affordable than ever before. Hitch was created to replace inefficient bus travel and provide a cheaper alternative to Uber or Lyft.

Rides can be scheduled same day or up to 60 days prior. You even have the unique option of connecting your social media

accounts to see if any mutual friends are in a shared car before you book!

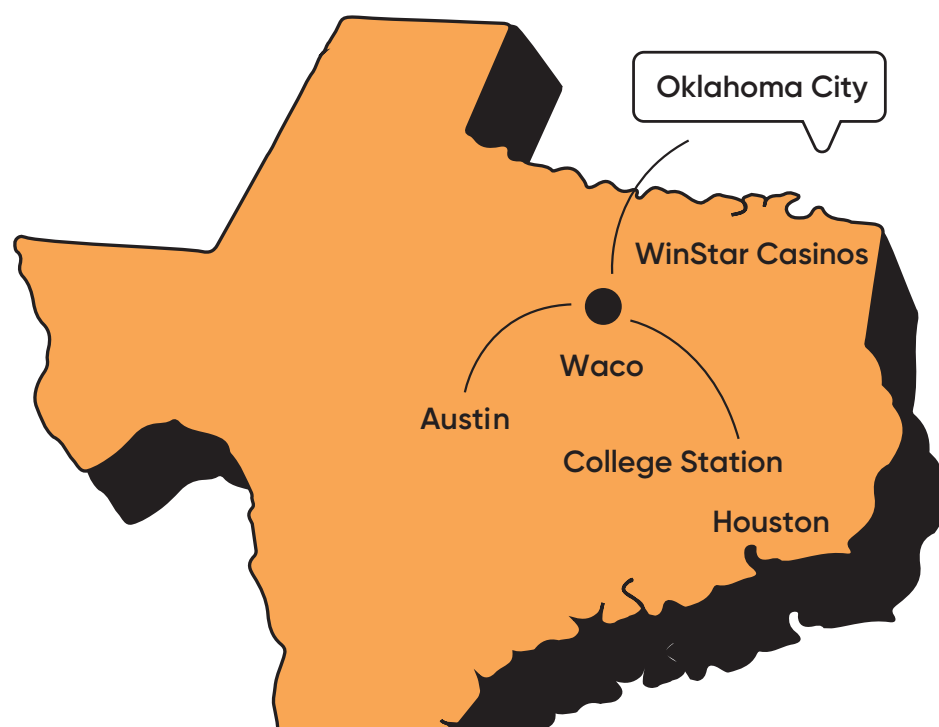
Have a car and want to make some extra cash going to places you travel anyway? You can make anywhere from \$40 to \$80 per ride.

Go to ridehitch.com to learn more and download the Hitch app.

"I'm a college student so I don't have a ton of money but Hitch has helped me visit friends and family for a reasonable price."

—HITCH USER

The Ft. Worth Routes



How Does it Work?



Hitch connects riders and drivers headed to the same city with both private and shared rides. Use the Hitch app to book your origin, destination, and ride type. (i.e. Hitch or Hitch Premier)



You'll meet your driver at a nearby pick-up location. Pick-up and drop-off locations are hand-picked based on your origin and destination. For TCU students, the nearest location is **2950 Berry Street**.



Drivers go through standard background checks and vehicle approvals. Once you book, it's our guarantee that you'll always get a ride.



For more customization, upgrade your ride to **Hitch Premier** for a private ride with door-to-door service.



CAMPUS FEATURE

Comrades true: TCU students take part in Horned Frog conservation

CAMILLA PRICE

COPY DESK CHIEF, TCU 360

Saving the mascot, part two
Find part one at [TCU360.com](https://www.tcu360.com).

TCU's own Horned Frogs are making strides in saving the school's mascot.

Since the Williams lab began studying horned lizards, students have contributed to conservation projects on the genetics, habitat and diet of Horned Frogs. More recently, they have begun to evaluate the reintroduction site to help the next generation of lizards survive.

Williams said the students in his lab have made some of the most significant discoveries for the horned lizard project.

Some of the most surprising findings have come from Ph.D. student Rachel Alenius.

Alenius was on a study abroad trip to save rhinos in South Africa when she learned about efforts to protect the Texas horned lizard back at TCU.

She joined the Williams lab in 2015 as an undergraduate biology major, studying the lizards in the stifling summer heat of South Texas. The project would fulfill her Honors thesis, "but also I was just really excited to see a horned lizard," she said.

Statewide, the horned lizard is considered a threatened species. But in the small towns of Kenedy and Karnes City, the lizards were abundant. Biologists wanted to know why.

In short, they adapted. After urban development

and those pesky fire ants disrupted their food supply, researchers were surprised to find they changed their menu.

"Basically they were eating lots of really tiny ants and termites, which it's not normal for adult Texas horned lizards to do that," said Alenius.

Her research upended the belief that horned lizards depended on harvester ants like pandas depend on bamboo.

Williams said fewer predators in town likely helped. Horned lizards usually depend on larger ants so they can eat quickly and hide from predators, but with fewer threats around, "They have maybe the luxury of sitting out in the open and eating small things," he said.

Her findings were so strange - and exciting - that Alenius stayed on with Williams to pursue a master's on the same topic.

Now pursuing her doctorate degree in biology, Alenius studies the diet and survival of hatchlings at Mason Mountain Wildlife Management Area in Central Texas, building conservationists' knowledge of reintroduced horned lizards.

Horned lizard habitat

Twenty miles south of where Mason Mountain's horned lizard population had disappeared, a rancher found lizards thriving on his property. Researchers set out to learn why.

Over the summer,

graduate biology students Padraic Elliott and Patrick Ryan compared the habitats at the two sites to reveal whether Mason Mountain is a quality environment for horned lizards and how it could be improved.

By examining the size, species and diversity of plants at Mason Mountain and the ranch site, his project adds "one more tool" to finding the secret sauce for successful reintroductions.

Ryan, who often collected data alongside Elliott, focused on the thermal habitat of the lizards.

Since lizards are ectotherms, or cold-blooded animals, they cannot regulate their body temperature to cool off and can die if temperatures rise above their "critical limit" of about 40 degrees Celsius, or 104 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ryan placed devices that record temperature in different "microhabitats" lizards use - dense vegetation, open areas and soil - at the ranch and Mason Mountain.

If the thermal habitats at the two sites are significantly different, "Kind of the assumption is that that natural population is the better habitat because it's been sustaining this natural population, where at these reintroduction sites they can't get a foothold there," said Ryan.

Elliott, Ryan and Alenius also collected data on where horned lizards spent time at Mason Mountain to help

conservationists choose the best release spots.

The students would follow the lizards every day, taking measurements of the habitat where each lizard was found and comparing it to a random point nearby to determine what environments the lizards prefer.

Ryan and Elliott focused on adult lizards, while Alenius tracked the hatchlings at the ranch and wildlife management area.

Following the Frogs

But to study the lizards, the students have to find them first.

Adult lizards were caught and fitted with radio transmitters that broadcast a unique frequency for each lizard up to a kilometer away.

The frequencies are picked up as "beeps" by handheld receivers with antennas that help students determine the direction of the transmitter. The louder the sound, the closer the lizard.

Hatchlings were too small for the radio transmitters, so researchers opted for another tracking device called harmonic radar. The team glued reflective tags attached to a strip resembling 35-millimeter film to the back of the lizards.

Rains said the harmonic tags were useful, but had drawbacks for tracking the lizards.

"Like any reptile, they shed their outer skin off, so there's a limited time

we can track them," he said.

The students attempted to find every tagged horned lizard once a day. Even with the tags, spotting them could be a challenge. If the tag had fallen off, the lizards were almost impossible to find.

Every day or two, the students would change the time they tracked an individual to make sure their data reflected the lizards' daily patterns.

In addition to collecting data for their own projects, they also gathered information on the size, sex and age of the lizards and logged deaths from predators. It may sound simplistic, but it's some of the first data of its kind.

Rains said the students' role in tracking the lizards is one of the most important parts of the reintroduction project.

Not a dull day went by tracking the lizards.

One day, Ryan and Alenius caught up to an adult lizard they had been tracking - halfway down the throat of a coachwhip snake.

"Our principle is just let nature take its course," said Ryan, "But what ended up happening in the moment was I was kind of like, 'You know I need to get this tracker back.'"

Thinking the lizard was dead, Ryan and Alenius retrieved the lizard with plans of taking off the tracker. But the lizard was still breathing.

"It looked pretty jacked up," said Ryan,

but they kept the lizard indoors overnight and she recovered fully by the next day.

"I give her a day of not tracking her so it doesn't bias the results as much, and then like a week later, she gets eaten again," he said.

The research team waited until the snake passed the tracker through its digestive system and retrieved it. No harm, no foul - except for the lizard.

With so many lizards getting eaten, Alenius said some of her favorite moments working with horned lizards are when she finds an individual that had been missing and it is "way bigger than I would have expected."

Students on the front lines at Mason Mountain also made the biggest discovery of the project so far: the first-ever clutches of wild hatchlings at the reintroduction site.

Last year, Alenius helped identify spots where females could be nesting.

Alenius counted about 25 hatchlings and suspects there were even more she didn't find.

The hatchlings are a unique milestone for reintroduction efforts in Texas. But Williams cautioned the project is far from over.

To save horned lizards, more work needs to be done - both in the field and in the classroom.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Light of faith

In spite of the challenges the project has faced, optimism for Texas horned lizards is on the rise.

The project is growing to include more stakeholders interested in saving the state reptile.

Historically, caring for the lizards was too expensive and time-consuming for most zoos. Fort Worth Zoo staff - who announced the hatching of their 1000th Texas horned lizard in September - are sharing care guidelines for the lizards with other institutions to help the breeding program expand.

The Dallas Zoo and Caldwell Zoo in Tyler began breeding horned lizards in the last three

years, and Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose expressed interest in joining the project.

This fall, the zoos reintroduced more than 260 hatchlings at Mason Mountain in the largest releases yet.

Next up for the team: Refining the process.

The researchers will continue monitoring the lizards and teasing out the different variables affecting horned lizard survival at Mason Mountain.

Rains said they are hopeful for the reintroduced population. "The more we learn, the more we realize they're a little more adaptable than we thought," he said.

If the population stabilizes - which could be in five years or thirty - conservationists will expand the reintroduction effort to other sites

where horned lizards once roamed.

Rains doesn't have a particular place in mind, but he's not worried about finding locations: "I can imagine for years we'd just get flooded with calls about people wanting to be on the mythical 'list,'" he said.

Fort Worth residents with visions of football fields covered in horny toads may be in for disappointment.

"We'll never be able to restore horned lizards to where they used to occur all over the state," said Rains.

Reintroduction efforts cost time and money, and in many areas, the habitat is too far gone for lizards to establish a population.

But Rains still plans to keep the connection between Texans and horned frogs alive.



PHOTO COURTESY DEAN WILLIAMS

A Karnes County horned lizard equipped with a radio transmitter to track her movements.

By reintroducing lizards to public sites, "People could take their family to see a lizard that's within driving distance," he said.

Although the conservation efforts continue, Alenius's journey with the Williams lab could be coming to an end.

"When I started this, I was coming off that trip from South Africa where I honestly felt very discouraged... I felt like there wasn't a lot I could personally do to help," she said. "And to see that what I'm doing with horned lizards is having a direct effect on their conservation,

on their management strategies, has been just very affirming... Going out there every day, even though it's hard, is paying off, and that's really, really cool."

To keep up with the adventures of the Williams lab, follow the TCU Horny Toad Project on Facebook.

SPORTS**Football adds four players to 2022 roster on National Signing Day****COLIN POST**

SPORTS EDITOR - TCU 360

Six years ago, signing just a handful of players on National Signing Day would have been unheard of for a football program in the Big 12.

In 2022, it's the reality for college football, including TCU.

TCU football announced the signing of four players as part of National Signing Day, completing a group of 23 newcomers for the program that includes 14 signees and nine transfers.

DJ Allen

Referred to as a "headliner" by Dykes,

Allen is a speedy four-star wide receiver from Gladewater High School, which sits 150 miles east of Fort Worth.

Ranked as the No. 28 wide receiver nationally in his class and the No. 27 overall player in Texas, Allen did it all for Gladewater his senior year. He passed for 741 yards and three touchdowns, rushed for 1,008 yards and 10 touchdowns and caught 12 passes for 288 yards and a touchdown.

In his career, Allen totaled 1,608 yards receiving and 18 scores, earning District 6-3A Division 1 MVP honors in both his junior and senior years.

What stands out most

about Allen, though, is his speed. The 5'11", 190-pounder also competed in basketball, baseball and track and field, setting a personal record of 10.82 in the 100 meter race his junior year.

Ronald Lewis

While TCU could not get it done against Texas on the field this year, the Frogs got a leg up on their state rival by flipping Lewis from the Longhorns.

Committed to Texas since August, the three-star cornerback decommitted on Tuesday and announced his commitment to TCU on Wednesday.

Ranked as the No. 44 player in Louisiana, Lewis helped lead Warren Easton Charter High School to the class 4A state title game during his senior year, where they would fall by one point (14-13) to Westgate High School.

Similar to Allen, Lewis also brings speed to the table, as he placed second in the 110 meter hurdles at the Louisiana state meet last May with a time of 14:31.

Connor Lingren

The final of three high school recruits signed by TCU on National Signing Day, Lingren is a three-star offensive lineman from College

Station High School.

Holding other offers from schools like Purdue, Arizona State and Virginia, Lingren was a recent offer for the Frogs, receiving his official offer just over two weeks ago on Jan. 18.

During his senior year, Lingren earned First Team Division 1 All-State honors behind 79 tackles (24 for a loss), four sacks, eight quarterback pressures, three forced fumbles and a pass breakup.

Lwal Uguak

A transfer from UConn, Uguak is a another defensive lineman who played in 34 games in his four

years with the Huskies' program.

The Canada native played his best football in 2021, recording 34 tackles (career-high), seven quarterback hurries and two pass breakups.

In his UConn career, Uguak totaled 69 tackles and four sacks.

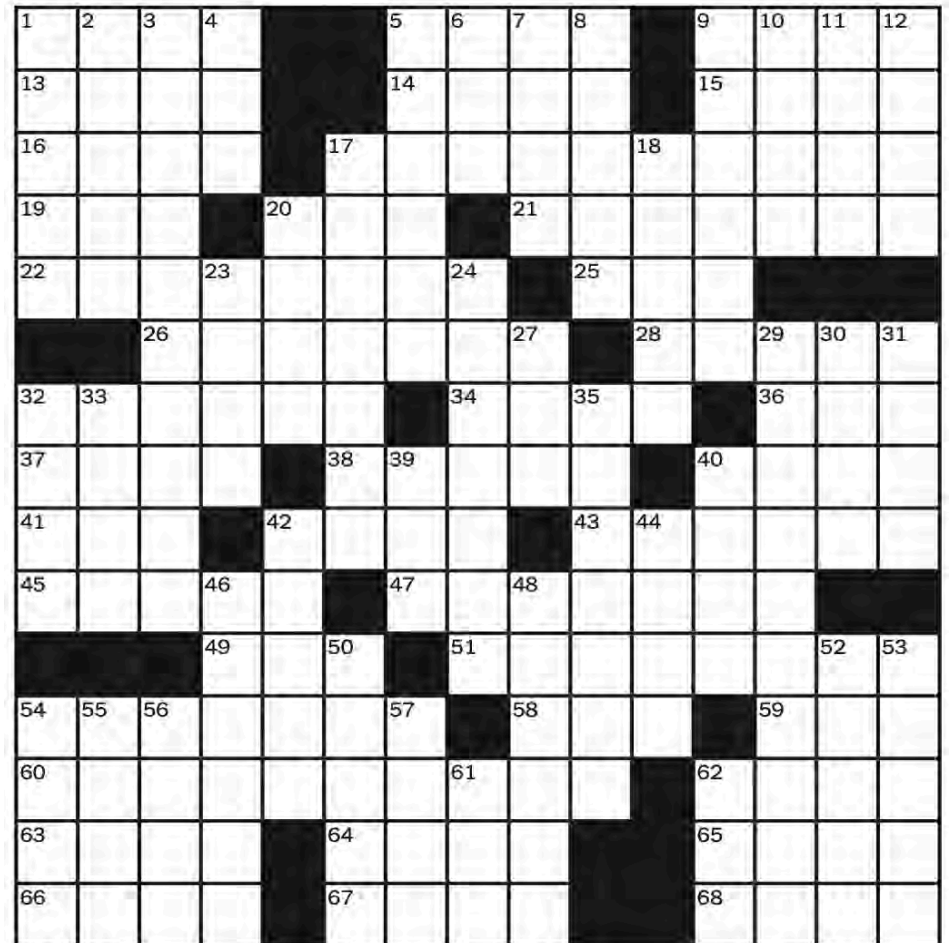
Originally from Edmonton, Alberta, the super senior was a first-team All-Canadian while playing for Harry Ainlay High School, leading them to a Provincial High School Tier 1 Championship as well.

The Frogs kick off the 2022 season on Sept. 2 on the road against Colorado.

RIFFRAMBAHZOO

The New York Times Edited by Will Shortz

- ACROSS
- 1 Go over
- 5 Like the eventual inheritors of the earth, in Matthew 9 Mark of divinity
- 13 A G.I. may be seen in it
- 14 Actress Fisher of "Wedding Crashers"
- 15 Brain connection
- 16 Like fans who hold season tickets, typically
- 17 Genre for Agatha Christie or Arthur Conan Doyle
- 19 Rapper ___ Nas X
- 20 Kissing on the subway, e.g., for short
- 21 Like some relationships
- 22 June
- 25 Baby fox
- 26 Bit of Western neckwear
- 28 Items on a checklist
- 32 One of two sultanates in the United Nations
- 34 N.B.A. legend nicknamed "Black Mamba"
- 36 Egg cells
- 37 U-shaped bike accessory
- 38 Last word in an improv show
- 40 A rainbow is said to be a good one
- 41 Beseech
- 42 Word with high or seven
- 43 Reach for the stars
- 45 No-frills
- 47 Things might get swept up in it 49 ___ jeans
- 51 Early 19th-century Australia, for one
- 54 Water tower?
- 58 Funny one
- 59 "Funny one!"
- 60 Intellectual conformity ... or a hint to interpreting 17-, 22- and 51-Across
- 62 Some frills
- 63 Lay off
- 64 Net emissions target
- 65 Lively, in music: Abbr.
- 66 "Wabbit" hunter Elmer
- 67 One of two sultanates in the United Nations
- 68 Right-hand page numbers, typically
- DOWN
- 1 Garden item frequently added to cream cheese
- 2 World's fair sight
- 3 Great thing to feel like
- 4 Signal agreement
- 5 Little bit of power
- 6 Funds might be held in this
- 7 Classic boulevard liners
- 8 Boat going back and forth?
- 9 Would really rather not
- 10 x, y and sometimes z
- 11 Romulus, Remus and the founding of Rome, e.g.
- 12 Jet-black gem
- 17 Cheers, boos and such
- 18 Strike down
- 20 + or - thing
- 23 Brother
- 24 Boosts, redundantly
- 27 Time period, or an anagram of one?
- 29 Cup holder, usually
- 30 "Back to you"
- 31 Compos mentis
- 32 Spill the beans
- 33 Detective Diaz on "Brooklyn Nine-Nine"
- 35 One reading Kerouac or Ginsberg, say
- 39 Sleazeball
- 40 Birthstone after sapphire
- 42 Inside info
- 44 Tiff
- 46 Filled (with)
- 48 Like scouting patches
- 50 ___ ball
- 52 Tums, for one
- 53 Country songs?
- 54 End-of-week exclamation
- 55 Language of Pakistan's Daily Khabrain
- 56 Top prize
- 57 "How do you like ___ apples?"
- 61 Glass who shared the first-ever Pulitzer in Audio Journalism
- 62 Language in which most words are monosyllabic



Carpe Diem by Niklas Eriksson





Student Media

**All TCU.
All the time.**

tcu360.com

GRE/GMAT/LSAT Prep Classes and Free Strategy Sessions

**Gear up
for grad school.**

Register Now!

TCU Extended Education

(817) 257-7132

www.lifelong.tcu.edu

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)
★★★ Today you're in a practical frame of mind, especially about making plans. You will ponder opportunities and long-term goals. Listen to the advice of someone more experienced, because they might help you. Tonight: Wishful thinking.
- TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Today you're serious about finances. You might see ways to budget and save money. Certainly, you'll be conservative in financial dealings. If shopping, you will buy long-lasting, practical items. Tonight: Get your facts right.
- GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Today the Moon is

- in your sign dancing with Saturn, which gives you a realistic view of life. You will put up with discomfort to achieve your aims. Seek out someone older whose experience you respect. Tonight: Some confusion.
- CANCER** (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ This is an excellent day to do research, because you're in a practical frame of mind and you won't overlook details. Furthermore, you have the endurance to follow through and find what you're looking for. Expect results! Tonight: Restless feelings.
- LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Today someone older, wiser or more experienced might play an important role in your life. They might give you good advice. Or, possibly, you are the wise sage giving others advice. Either way, this is a good day to think about practical, long-term goals.

- Tonight: Check for truth.
- VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Discussions with bosses, parents, and the police will be realistic and down to earth today. People want solutions, especially fast, doable solutions. You're ready to face whatever stands in your way. Courage! Tonight: Be clear when talking to parents and bosses.
- LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ This is a good day to study, because you have the energy to focus. It's also a good day to finish important papers, manuscripts or that screenplay you've been working on. A teacher or guru figure might help you. Tonight: Don't believe everything you hear.
- SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ This is the perfect day to focus on paperwork you have been avoiding. Tidy up

- and organize matters related to taxes, debt, inheritances and shared property. Figure out your bills. What do you owe and what do you own? Information is power. Tonight: Double-check your finances.
- SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★ Discussions with partners and close friends will be sober today. This is because you are less inclined to reveal your emotions or talk about your feelings. In fact, you will prefer to be by yourself to think about things and evaluate what's going on. Tonight: Listen carefully.
- CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ This is a productive day because you're in the right frame of mind to work. You won't mind a bit of discomfort as long as you achieve your goals. That's why you're ready to roll up your sleeves and dig in. You also might do something to improve your

- health or tackle pet-related duties. Tonight: Be helpful.
- AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Parents might have a serious discussion about the education of their kids because this is a good day to make plans. Consider financial limitations or opportunities. Others will use today to practice artistic skills.

- Tonight: Practice.
- PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Family discussions will be practical today because people want to get things done. You're looking for solutions, especially to home repairs. An older family member might have good advice. Make improvements slowly. Tonight: Be realistic.



SPORTS

TCU basketball bounces back with team-oriented win over Oklahoma State

By COLIN POST

SPORTS EDITOR, TCU 360

With Super Bowl 56 just four days away, Damion Baugh and Emanuel Miller did their best Joe Burrow and Jamarr Chase impressions to ice the game for TCU.

Just thirteen seconds were on the clock, and Baugh flung a pass full court on an inbounds play to Miller, who caught it in stride and slammed it home to push the Frogs' lead to four with 11 seconds left.

"It's that we run every day in practice," Baugh said. "The refs were taking too long, so I kind of made a little side gesture at Eman [Miller]. Once I did it, Eman knew to go long. Touchdown."

That was far from the pair's only contribution on the night, though, as they combined for 31 points, six rebounds and five assists in 71 minutes played to lead TCU to a 77-73 win over Oklahoma State on Tuesday night.

Baugh's and Miller's late-game connection was a microcosm of what has made this TCU team different this year: chemistry.

Five different players attended the postgame press conference. It was unclear who was invited and who just came along for the ride.

It was clear that one player had not been invited — point guard Mike Miles. After missing his second-straight game with wrist injury, the Frogs' leading scorer had come to the presser to give a nod to his team.

"I wasn't supposed

to come here, but I just wanted to say that I'm really proud of them," Miles said. "They bounced back from last game. They were hearing everything about how they couldn't win without me. I'm just proud of how they played tonight without me. I was on the bench cheering them on and I'm proud of how all of them played."

Head coach Jamie Dixon echoed the sentiment that the team has a tight bond, pointing out that the Frogs that were healthy attended a TCU Special Olympics event together the night before.

"They're working hard, they're great kids, I love the group," Dixon said. "These were guys who were out at Special Olympics event last night that was voluntary. They were all there — the ones that weren't hurt."

The Frogs needed that chemistry tonight to ward off a ferocious 11-0 run by the Pokes over a near-four minute span late in the second half led by guard Isaac Likekele.

The senior scored seven of his 19 total points during that span to cut TCU's lead to 70-69 with just over two minutes remaining.

Baugh, who has been clutch for the Frogs all season, then hit a floater from the free-throw line to prevent Oklahoma State from taking the lead.

"Mike Miles, he told me to step up and make the big shot, so I answered the call," Baugh said.

Oklahoma State then pulled back within two,



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOFROGS.COM

TCU forward Emanuel Miller is guarded closely in the paint against Oklahoma State at Schollmaier Arena in Fort Worth, Texas, on Feb. 8, 2022.

when forward Eddie Lampkin was sent to the line for free throws with 19 seconds left. Just a 52% career free-throw shooter, the freshman knocked them both down.

"I wasn't even worrying. I just had to step up," Lampkin said. "I'm built for this. I shoot the free throws at the end every time at practice."

Baugh and Miller then took care of the rest, improving TCU to 5-4 in conference play. With the win, the Frogs continue their streak of not losing back-to-back games this season.

Lampkin finished with 10 points and 12 rebounds, helping TCU to a resounding 37-24 win of the rebounding battle. Fourteen of those rebounds had been offensive, leading to 14 second-chance points for the Frogs.

Looking to bounce back from their disappointing loss on Saturday, the Frogs got off to a hot start in the first half. Behind 5 quick points from Miller, TCU took an early 14-4 lead.

The Pokes immediately made it clear that they had not come to Fort Worth to get run over, though, responding with a 13-2 run to take a one-point advantage.

Back-to-back threes by guard Avery Anderson had led Oklahoma State on that run, and the junior would have more to say by the end of the half, scoring a game-high 11 points by halftime.

Though Anderson had stayed hot, the Pokes had not as a team, and TCU finished the first half on a resounding 21-9 run to take a seven-point lead (39-32) at the break.

Ten offensive

rebounds for the Frogs in the first half alone had been the difference, as they had turned those into 12 second-chance points.

Through the first 6:30 of the second half, the teams went back and forth, with strong individual performances on both sides leading the way.

Likekele scored eight of the Pokes' first 11 points in the second half, while forward Chuck O'Bannon dropped 6 of the Frogs' first 11 during that span to keep TCU's lead of 7.

"I hate to use it because he's such a good player, but he [Likekele] backed us down," Dixon said. "He got in the paint, and I think we were afraid to be physical with him on those drives."

Two minutes later, O'Bannon struck again, drilling his third three-

pointer of the game to extend the Frogs' advantage to 57-47 with 11:25 to go.

The teams would trade blows for the next six minutes, with TCU going up by as much as 12 before the Likekele-led run by Oklahoma State brought the game down to the wire.

O'Bannon finished with 19 points, which tied for his career-high. He's 3-for-6 from behind the arc was quite a bounce-back after going 2-for-13 from deep in his previous two games for 13 combined points.

The victory for TCU means it split the season series with Oklahoma State. Now halfway through their Big 12 season, the Frogs will head to Lubbock on Saturday to play the No. 9 Texas Tech Red Raiders. Tip-off is scheduled for 3 p.m.