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SPORTS

Tech sets new program scoring record in home opener



Texas Tech sophomore infielder Landon Stripling (16) celebrates his big hit against Texas Southern at Dan Law Field at Rip Griffin Park Feb. 23, 2024.

Photo by **Pablo Mena**

By **Adam Sierra**
Feb. 23, 2024, 1:54 p.m.

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A historic afternoon led No. 19 Texas Tech to a 32-5 victory over Texas Southern in its home opener on Friday inside Rip Griffin Park's Dan Law Field.

Following an RBI double to left center field by freshman Davis Rivers at the bottom of the eighth, the Red Raiders surpassed the all-time program record of runs in a single game, which was set in 1997 when they ran 31 against the University of the Southwest, according to Tech Athletics.

"It really doesn't mean anything," said Tech head baseball Tim Tadlock. "Means you won the game, and really, we're probably just as happy winning the game three to two as you are to whatever the score was. We're aspiring to play baseball at the highest level we can, and for each guy on our team, I don't think we were close to that today."

Not only was it a historic game for the program as a whole, but also for freshman Landon Stripling who earned his first start and hit two home runs in back-to-back innings, marking the first homers of his career. The Georgia native also recorded a team high seven RBIs, according to Tech Athletics.

Prior to Stripling's performance on Friday, the first-year Red Raider had come off the bench in the team's previous weekend in Arlington which he said made him ready for Friday's contest.

"I knew that I was probably going to have to get my shot off the bench, which was fine, but I was ready," Stripling said. "... I have to give my credit to God and Jesus of course because I pray to them all the time. And especially throughout a week like that, where I knew that my moment was gonna come, but I had to take advantage of that. So just praying to them gave me a lot of peace, gave me a lot of confidence to be able to go out there and do what I did."

Behind junior Kyle Robinson's five innings pitched, the Red Raiders defense only allowed one run and one hit to be scored on them which came at the top of the first.

Moreover, Robinson threw a total of 84 pitches throughout the first five innings and finished with eight strikeouts.

"He threw the ball and guys made some plays behind him," Tadlock said. "... Days like today are sometimes tough on guys, and there's a learning process when there's long innings. There were three long sets over there, but you know again that's something you hope to have to deal with."

Offensively for Tech, runs were scored in seven of the eight innings they played including four home runs with Stripling and senior Drew Woodcox each having a pair. The two from Woodcox also came in back-to-back innings in the sixth and seventh.

Besides the lone score at the top of the first, the Tigers' four other runs all came at the top of the sixth including a two RBI double by senior Nin Burns II.

The Red Raiders will continue their series against the Tigers at 2 p.m. on Saturday at Rip Griffin Park's Dan Law Field.



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