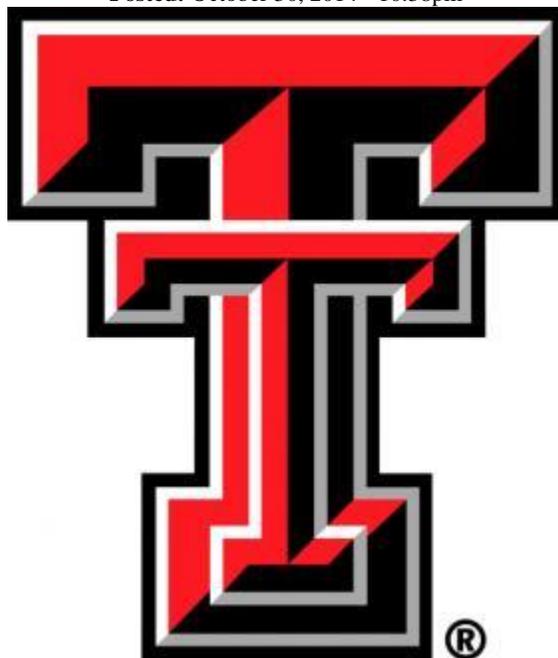


Former Texas Tech RB Larry Isaac runs into Red Raider Hall of Fame

Plenette Pierson and Stacey Totman also to be inducted into Hall of Fame

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By [Don Williams](#)

A-J Media

Larry Isaac had perfect timing.

Two of the greatest football teams in Texas Tech history were the 11-1 squad of 1973 and the 10-2 outfit of 1976, and Isaac had a better view of both than anyone with 50-yard line tickets. He lined up in the Red Raiders' backfield each of those storied seasons.

The Southwest Conference newcomer of the year in 1973 and the Red Raiders' leading rusher in 1974, 1975 and 1976, Isaac landed smack in the middle of a golden age of Tech football.

"I did," the Lubbock native and Hub City resident said. "Rodney Allison and I were looking at that and realized, 'Man, you played on two of the best teams that Tech has had in a while.' That's something I'd never thought about. That was an honor within itself, to be able to play on those two teams."

Isaac, 61, will have his contributions saluted today when he's inducted into the Tech Athletic Hall of Fame during a 6:30 p.m. ceremony at the Memorial Civic Center. Plenette Pierson (women's basketball, 1999-2003) and Stacey Totman (women's golf, 1993-95) will join Isaac in the Hall of Fame, which recognizes on-field achievement.

The Hall of Honor will induct Corky Oglesby, who was a Tech assistant basketball coach (1969-75), head track and field coach (1975-95) and Red Raider Club official (1997-present).

Former faculty member and administrator Robert Ewalt will receive the Dave Brown Award, which recognizes a non-Texas Tech alumnus for contributions to Tech athletics.

A 5-foot-10, 185-pound running back from Estacado, Isaac couldn't have asked for better circumstances. The NCAA allowed freshmen to play varsity football for the first time in 1972. The next year, as a freshman, Isaac ran for 526 yards and 10 touchdowns to be SWC newcomer of the year on a team that won the Gator Bowl.

“I came along just at the right time,” he said.

And Tech was building a nationally ranked program in an ideal place — his hometown.

Isaac’s rushing totals the next three seasons — 671, 751 and 685 — were team highs.

And his parents, James and Imatha Isaac, got to see it all.

“You know what, it was really good, because at that time my mom and dad were able to come to every home game,” Isaac said. “A lot of my friends I played ball with were able to come and see me play. A lot of people in Lubbock knew who I was, because I had been at Estacado and we played the Lubbock schools here in high school.

“It was a real good honor to be able to play in front of my family and hometown.”

Isaac said he considered Texas and TCU, the latter because his sister lived in Fort Worth and he liked the city. Playing in front of his parents won out.

Which was a win for all involved. Tech enjoyed strong quarterbacking from Joe Barnes, Tommy Duniven and Allison during Isaac’s career. One of Isaac’s fellow running backs was Billy Taylor, who spent five years in the NFL. And the Red Raiders had other offensive weapons at the time such as All-America tight end Andre Tillman and wide receiver Lawrence Williams,

who caught three touchdown passes in a 26-3 rout of Texas.

That was the highlight of the 1974 season.

Jim Carlen’s 1973 team finished 11th in the final poll after beating Tennessee in Jacksonville, Florida. Steve Sloan’s 1976 team reached No. 5 before a November loss to Houston and finished No. 13 after a Bluebonnet Bowl loss to Nebraska.

Which team was better?

“Man, that’s one of the hardest things,” Isaac said. “I keep going round and round in circles (trying to decide). If we played each other, we’d probably play for a tie. Both teams had great players on both sides of the ball and a good quarterback that could run the ball and throw. That would be a hard choice.”

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