



1963 National Champions

Following two seasons that saw Texas flirt with its first National Championship, the Longhorns opened the 1963 campaign as the No. 1 team in the nation according to Sports Illustrated and Street & Smith's Football Yearbook. The Associated Press did not agree and forced UT to work its way up the ladder with a preseason No. 5 ranking.

After a pair of decisive season-opening wins at Tulane (21-0) and against Texas Tech (49-7), UT rapidly climbed into The AP Poll's No. 2 spot. Texas held that position after a 34-7 win against Oklahoma State and that set the stage for a battle for the nation's top spot in the annual rivalry with No. 1 Oklahoma, in Dallas.

A convincing 28-7 win against the Sooners rocketed the Longhorns to No. 1 and they maintained their ranking through the remainder of the regular season. It wasn't all easy though. In their first week at No. 1, UT nearly blew a 17-0 halftime lead in a 17-13 win at Arkansas and got another scare in a 7-0 win against Baylor later on in Austin.

In the biggest play of the season, Duke Carlisle made a sensational leaping interception of what looked like a sure last-minute, game-tying Baylor touchdown pass. With 29 seconds remaining in the game and Baylor at UT's 19-yard line, Bears quarterback Don Trull was looking at his favorite target, Lawrence Elkins, who was running a post pattern. Elkins had eluded UT's Joe Dixon and looked to be wide open as he approached the goal line before Carlisle, who had covered nearly 15 yards since the ball left Trull's hand, made the miraculous play.

"Thank you, Duke. You saved my life," Dixon said to Carlisle after the game-saving catch.

The Longhorns avoided another upset attempt in a 15-13 victory at Texas A&M, scoring the winning touchdown on a Carlisle 1-yard plunge with 1:19 remaining in the game. UT entered the fourth quarter trailing 13-3 before putting the finishing touches on the victory.

Since there was no Associated Press postseason poll, Texas went into its Cotton Bowl matchup against No. 2 Navy with The AP national title already secured, but the Football Writers Association and the Helms Foundation withheld naming a National Champion until after the game. The Midshipmen were expected to provide quite a test behind the multi-talented skills of junior quarterback Roger Staubach, who had claimed the Heisman Trophy during the season.

The national TV pregame introductions produced a surprise and a challenge. When he was introduced, Midshipmen head coach Wayne Hardin said pointedly, "When the challenger meets the champion and the challenger wins, then there's a new champion." This seemed to raise Darrell Royal's hackles and he replied grimly, "We're ready."

Texas jumped out to a quick 21-0 halftime lead, and behind stoutend defenders Tommy Nobis and Scott Appleton, frustrated the scrambling Staubach. In the meantime, the Longhorns flourished behind a memorable performance by Carlisle, who was voted the outstanding back of the game. He connected with Phil Harris on 58-yard and 63-yard scoring tosses while rolling up 213 passing yards and 267 total yards on the day. UT secured a consensus National Championship with a decisive 28-6 win.

"I've never seen a team which deserved to be No. 1 more than Texas," Hardin said after the game. "Texas was just the best we've played, that's all. Staubach didn't play as well as usual, but I imagine Texas had a lot to do with that."

Appleton earned consensus All-America and All-Southwest Conference honors, running back Tommy Ford rushed for 738 yards and earned All-America and All-SWC recognition, Nobis was a consensus All-SWC pick and the American Football Coaches Association tabbed Royal its Coach of the Year. Appleton, Ford and center David McWilliams served as captains for the Longhorns, who finished with a perfect 11-0 record and 7-0 mark in SWC play.

SEASON RESULTS

11-0, 7-0 Southwest Conference Champions

Sept. 20	(#5)	at Tulane	W, 21-0	20,000
Sept. 28	(#4)	Texas Tech	W, 49-7	50,015
Oct. 5	(#3)	Oklahoma State	W, 34-7	50,280
Oct. 12	(#2)	#1 Oklahoma^	W, 28-7	76,004
Oct. 19	(#1)	at Arkansas	W, 17-13	42,000
Oct. 26	(#1)	Rice	W, 10-6	63,722
Nov. 2	(#1)	at SMU	W, 17-12	59,000
Nov. 9	(#1)	Baylor	W, 7-0	64,307
Nov. 16	(#1)	TCU	W, 17-0	56,658
Nov. 28	(#1)	at Texas A&M	W, 15-13	38,500
Jan. 1	(#1)	#2 Navy+	W, 28-6	75,504

^ at Cotton Bowl (Dallas) // + Cotton Bowl (Dallas)



1969 National Champions

The 1969 season marked the 100th year of college football and ABC television executive Beano Cook arranged for Texas and Arkansas to play the final game of the regular season, moving their usual October date to the first weekend in December.

For a long while, it looked as though the game would be a meeting of also-rans. Ohio State was dominating the Big Ten and the chances of the game being anything other than just the last game of the season were pretty remote.

However, as the Longhorns took a Saturday off to prepare for their upcoming game on Thanksgiving Day with Texas A&M, and its upstart coach Bo Schembechler upset the Buckeyes. Texas vaulted to No. 1 in the polls and Arkansas claimed the No. 2 spot.

That set the stage. Even the day took on an eerie feeling. The night before, a steady, cold rain fell in Fayetteville and an icy fog hovered over the stadium as the crowd awaited the arrival of President Richard Nixon, who would award a plaque symbolic of the National Championship to the winner.

In the 100th year of college football, it truly was the "Game of the Century." The Longhorns overcame turnovers and a 14-0 Arkansas lead to post a 15-14 victory. James Street scrambled for one touchdown, got a two-point conversion and then hit Randy Peschel on a dramatic 4th-and-3 play late in the game. Donnie Wigginton, the third-string quarterback who was the holder, made a big save on a high snap and Happy Feller booted the extra point for the winning score with 3:58 remaining. Tom Campbell's interception on UT's 21-yard line halted Arkansas' final drive.

Less than a week later, when safety Fred Steinmark underwent surgery for the removal of his leg because of bone cancer, UCLA administrators watching the Longhorns play basketball in Los Angeles actually wept.

The Cotton Bowl prompted a great deal of interest with No. 1 Texas hosting No. 9 Notre Dame. The Fighting Irish were making their first bowl appearance since the "Four Horsemen" beat Stanford 27-10 in the 1925 Rose Bowl. Ara Parseghian's 8-1-1 squad was ending its 44-year self-imposed departure from bowls.

Again, it took some dramatics for a Texas win. UT trailed 17-14 midway through the final period before Street directed the Horns 76 yards for the winning score. Billy Dale's 1-yard run capped the drive and gave UT a 21-17 lead and the 500th win in school history.

In the locker room after the 21-17 victory, Royal gave Steinmark the game ball. The little safety would become a national symbol of courage as he battled cancer for a year-and-a-half before dying in June 1971.

An ABC-TV poll of sportswriters tabbed Royal Coach of the Decade after wrapping up the 1960s with a pair of national titles. Tackle Bob McKay earned consensus All-America and All-Southwest Conference honors, while linebacker Glen Halsell, wide receiver Cotton Speyrer, running back Steve Worster and offensive tackle Bob Wuensch each earned All-America and All-SWC recognition. Street, tackle Leo Brooks and defensive end Bill Atessis each earned consensus All-SWC honors. Halsell, Ted Koy and Street served as captains for the 11-0 (7-0, SWC Champions) Longhorns.

FINAL AP POLL

1. Texas
2. Penn State
3. USC
4. Ohio State
5. Notre Dame
6. Missouri
7. Arkansas
8. Mississippi
9. Michigan
10. LSU

FINAL UPI POLL

1. Texas
2. Penn State
3. Arkansas
4. USC
5. Ohio State
6. Missouri
7. LSU
8. Michigan
9. Notre Dame
10. UCLA

SEASON RESULTS

11-0, 7-0 Southwest Conference Champions

Sept. 20	(#4)	at California	W, 17-0	33,702
Sept. 27	(#4)	Texas Tech	W, 49-7	65,200
Oct. 4	(#4)	Navy	W, 56-17	63,200
Oct. 11	(#2)	#8 Oklahoma^	W, 27-17	71,938
Oct. 25	(#2)	Rice	W, 31-0	61,500
Nov. 1	(#2)	at SMU	W, 45-14	55,287
Nov. 8	(#2)	Baylor	W, 56-14	51,000
Nov. 15	(#2)	TCU	W, 69-7	51,000
Nov. 27	(#1)	at Texas A&M	W, 49-12	51,160
Dec. 6	(#1)	at #2 Arkansas	W, 15-14	44,000
Jan. 1	(#1)	#9 Notre Dame+	W, 21-17	73,000

^ at Cotton Bowl (Dallas) // + Cotton Bowl (Dallas)



1970 National Champions

Texas entered the 1970 season with a 20-game winning streak on the line and as the defending National Champions. With all of their startling credentials, the Longhorns entered the season ranked No. 2 behind Ohio State in the polls.

Despite a rash of preseason injuries, UT stormed into the year with a pair of decisive victories against California (56-15) and at Texas Tech (35-13).

The win over the Golden Bears propelled the Longhorns into the No. 1 spot in the UPI poll and narrowed their gap on Ohio State for the top spot in The AP poll. Despite the easy win against Tech, the Horns dropped back to No. 2 in the UPI poll, with Ohio State claiming a unanimous No. 1, again.

With UT's winning streak standing at 22 games, it appeared that the string of success with the unstoppable "Wishbone" had finally run out. In the season's third week, No. 13 UCLA conceived a unique defense which stymied the Longhorns. The Bruins appeared ready to end the streak with a 17-13 lead, 25 seconds remaining and Texas 45 yards away from the end zone. It was then that UT quarterback Eddie Phillips hit Cotton Speyrer in stride at the 25-yard line. Speyrer shook a UCLA defender and crossed the goal line with only 12 seconds left as UT came away with a 20-17 victory.

After the come-from-behind home victory against UCLA, the Longhorns posted back-to-back victories against Oklahoma (41-9) and at Rice (45-21). Those wins vaulted the Longhorns ahead of Ohio State into the nation's top spot.

A 42-15 win against SMU helped the Longhorns maintain the top spot. In its second week at No. 1, UT was forced to hold off a stubborn Baylor team in Waco (21-14) to remain at No. 1.

The Longhorns continued to hold the top spot with decisive victories at TCU (58-0) and against arch-rival Texas A&M (52-14) to set up a battle with No. 4 Arkansas. For the second consecutive year, the meeting with the Razorbacks would decide the Southwest Conference crown.

After claiming their third consecutive SWC crown with a 42-7 win against Arkansas, the Longhorns were awarded the UPI National Championship.

UT entered its Cotton Bowl rematch with No. 6 Notre Dame as the nation's top team in both The AP and UPI polls.

After falling 24-11 to the Fighting Irish, which snapped UT's 30-game winning streak, the Longhorns dropped to No. 3 in The AP poll but remained UPI's National Champion. The 30-game winning streak currently stands as the 12th-longest in NCAA history.

Defensive end Bill Atassis, fullback Steve Worster and offensive tackle Bobby Wuensch earned consensus All-America and All-SWC honors, while linebacker Scott Henderson and Speyrer earned All-America and All-SWC recognition. Running back Jim Bertelsen and offensive guard Bobby Mitchell also earned All-SWC accolades. Henderson, Worster, Wuensch and Zapalac were the captains for the 10-1 (7-0, SWC Champion) Longhorns.

SEASON RESULTS

11-0, 7-0 Southwest Conference Champions

Sept. 19	(#2)	California	W, 56-15	61,000
Sept. 26	(#2)	at Texas Tech	W, 35-13	53,124
Oct. 3	(#2)	#13 UCLA	W, 20-17	66,370
Oct. 10	(#2)	Oklahoma^	W, 49-9	72,032
Oct. 24	(#2)	at Rice	W, 45-21	70,500
Oct. 31	(#1)	SMU	W, 42-15	66,500
Nov. 7	(#1)	at Baylor	W, 21-14	36,000
Nov. 14	(#1)	at TCU	W, 58-0	40,179
Nov. 26	(#1)	Texas A&M	W, 52-14	66,400
Dec. 5	(#1)	#4 Arkansas	W, 42-7	68,510
Jan. 1	(#1)	#6 Notre Dame+	W, 24-11	73,000

^ at Cotton Bowl (Dallas) // + Cotton Bowl (Dallas)



2005 National Champions

Following an 11-1 campaign in 2004 that culminated in the Longhorns' first BCS win over Michigan in their first Rose Bowl, Texas entered the 2005 season ranked No. 2 behind defending champion USC. The ranking was UT's highest in the preseason since 1970, its last championship season.

The Longhorns opened with a 60-3 win over Louisiana-Lafayette as QB Vince Young accounted for four TDs and freshman RB Jamaal Charles made the top freshman rushing debut in UT history with 135 yards.

The win set up a historic first meeting with No. 4 Ohio State. Trailing 22-16, Young connected with WR Limas Sweed on 24-yard TD with 2:17 remaining. The defense held firm, forcing a safety for the 25-22 final to give UT its second-straight win over a Big Ten power.

A 51-10 win over Rice at home, in which Charles racked up 189 rushing yards and three TDs, sent Texas into its bye week and then conference play, where it opened at Missouri. Young produced his first 100-yard passing/rushing game of the season with 236 passing and 108 rushing in the 51-20 victory.

The Red River Rivalry arrived with much being made of Oklahoma's five-game winning streak in the series. However, 2005 would produce a stark contrast, as Texas rolled to a 45-12 win, highlighted by an 80-yard TD run by Charles for a 14-6 lead. The Longhorns never looked back, capping the win with a 67-yard fumble return TD by DT Rod Wright.

Next was No. 24 Colorado, and Young would have one of his finest days playing. He broke his own school record for completion percentage by connecting on 25-of-29 (86.2%) attempts for a career-high 336 yards and two TDs, while also reaching the end zone three times on the ground for a 42-17 win.

That set the stage for undefeated No. 10 Texas Tech. WR Billy Pittman collected his third 100-yard game with a career-high 138 yards and two TDs, while the defense held the nation's top-ranked scoring offense to 17 points for a 52-17 win.

The Longhorns then traveled to Oklahoma State, a team that in 2004 held a 35-7 lead before Texas made the greatest comeback in school history with 49 unanswered points. Again, the Cowboys jumped out, this time 28-9, and again UT responded. This time with 38-unanswered points. Young became the first player in NCAA history to rush for over 250 yards and pass for over 230 in the same game for a UT record 506 yards of total offense.

Texas closed the regular season with wins over Baylor, Kansas and Texas A&M for its first undefeated regular season since 1983, while clinching a spot in the Big 12 Championship, where it would meet Colorado again. The final score was set midway through the third quarter at 70-3, giving Mack Brown his first Big 12 title and sending the Longhorns to the BCS National Championship to face No. 1 USC.

The two teams played a game for the ages. Young took the spotlight from Heisman Trophy winners Reggie Bush and Matt Leinart, becoming the first player in NCAA history to pass and rush for more than 200 yards twice in a career. He recorded 267 yards passing and 200 yards rushing with three TDs, topped by his fourth-down, eight-yard TD run with 19 seconds to go for the 41-38 win.

Young won the Maxwell Award, the O'Brien Award and the Manning Award, and was consensus first-team All-America. Safety Michael Huff became UT's first winner of the Thorpe Award and was unanimous first-team All-America, along with OT Jonathan Scott. Wright also was named consensus first-team All-America.

SEASON RESULTS

13-0, 8-0 Big 12 Conference Champions

Sept. 3	(#2)	Louisiana-Lafayette	W, 60-3	82,519
Sept. 10	(#2)	at #4 Ohio State	W, 25-22	105,565
Sept. 17	(#2)	Rice	W, 51-10	83,055
Oct. 1	(#2)	at Missouri	W, 51-20	57,231
Oct. 8	(#2)	vs. Oklahoma^	W, 45-12	75,452
Oct. 15	(#2)	#24 Colorado	W, 42-17	83,474
Oct. 22	(#2)	#10 Texas Tech	W, 52-17	83,919
Oct. 29	(#2)	at Oklahoma State	W, 47-28	48,035
Nov. 5	(#2)	at Baylor	W, 62-0	44,783
Nov. 12	(#2)	Kansas	W, 66-14	83,696
Nov. 25	(#2)	at Texas A&M	W, 40-29	86,617
Dec. 3	(#2)	vs. Colorado+	W, 70-3	71,107
Jan. 4	(#2)	vs. #1 USC!	W, 41-38	93,986

^ Cotton Bowl (Dallas) // + Reliant Stadium (Houston) // ! Rose Bowl (Pasadena, Calif.)