



FOOTBALL

#TXWESFOOTBALL



## ARE YOU READY?

### FOOTBALL IS COMING TO TEXAS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

The 125-year-old university announces it will begin recruiting its leadership class for the 2016-17 season.

Feb. 10, 2016 — Texas Wesleyan University announced that it will re-establish the University's football program with a red-shirt leadership class that will begin practicing during the 2016-17 season. Games are scheduled to begin in the 2017-18 season.

"This is truly an historic occasion for Texas Wesleyan," President Frederick G. Slabach said. "Football will bring a new team of student-athletes who will thrive at our Texas Wesleyan campus."

The university plans to hire its coaching staff in February and will start recruiting 75 students for a red-shirt leadership class that will begin practicing and scrimmaging during the 2016-17 season.

The team will play in the NAIA's Central States Football League, which is composed of teams from the Sooner Athletic Conference and the Red River Athletic Conference.

In a time when tickets to athletic events are skyrocketing, Texas Wesleyan's football team will provide an inexpensive, fun, family-friendly way to experience the sport of football.

"Much like our focus on a 'Smaller. Smarter.' education experience in the classroom, football at Texas Wesleyan will look very different here than it does at NCAA Division I universities. It will be athletic, exciting, and fun to watch," Slabach said.

Future expansion of the football program includes band programs, as well as an expansion of Texas Wesleyan's highly respected athletic training program.

The university is also exploring the possibility of developing a new stadium adjacent to campus through a collaborative partnership.

Texas Wesleyan's football program began in 1934-35 (it had previously competed from 1902-1914 as Polytechnic College), and competed against rivals like Austin College and John Tarleton Agricultural College (now Tarleton State). During the 1940-41 season, the team won a conference co-championship. World War II signaled the suspension, as many of Texas Wesleyan's men served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Texas Wesleyan currently competes in baseball, cross country, basketball, soccer, golf, track and field, tennis, softball, volleyball, table tennis, and competitive cheer and dance. Plans are also underway to develop a new women's lacrosse program. Texas Wesleyan student-athletes regularly win scholar-athlete awards and adhere to the same academic standards as other University students.

"The addition of football is an intentional piece of our strategic plan," Beverly Volkman Powell '92 MBA '99, Board of Trustees Chair, said. "This campus needs football to enhance our student life experience and round out our athletic offerings."

Since 2008, 34 small colleges and universities in the U.S. have added football to their athletic programs, three in Texas: Houston Baptist University, Southwestern University and Wayland Baptist University. These universities have seen significant enhancement of student life and increased revenue as a result of the new programs.

Texas Wesleyan is a private, coeducational university in Fort Worth. The university has seen significant growth in recent years as the result of the revitalization of East Fort Worth and its award-winning marketing program. Founded in 1890, the university is currently celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, making it the longest-serving educational institution in Fort Worth.

## SMALLER. SMARTER. FOOTBALL.

### FAST FACTS

MASCOT & TEAM NAME	THE RAMS
GOVERNING BODY	NAIA
CONFERENCE	CENTRAL STATES FOOTBALL LEAGUE

### TEXAS WESLEYAN AT-A-GLANCE

**2,647** TOTAL STUDENTS

**1,984** UNDERGRADUATES

**16:1** AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

- > Ranked in the top tier of regional universities in the West (by *U.S. News & World Report*) six years in a row.
- > Founded in 1890

### WHY FOOTBALL?

Texas Wesleyan is uniquely positioned in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex to provide a fun, family-friendly alternative to professional and NCAA Division 1 sports.

**Texas Wesleyan's dedication to a "Smaller. Smarter." education experience allows the University to recruit highly-motivated, high-performing students who want to play for the love of the game.**

Football at Texas Wesleyan will be a boon for Fort Worth and the surrounding community, as well as a key driver of student engagement and enrollment at Texas Wesleyan.

### TIMELINE

#### 2016-17 SEASON

- February 2016 Head coach, defensive and offensive coordinators hired. Leadership class recruiting begins.
- March 2016 Renovations begin on Brown-Lupton Student Center to become weight room and athletic offices.
- August 2016 75, red-shirt athletes for leadership class fully enrolled.
- Spring 2017 Scrimmages and practices begin.

#### 2017-18 SEASON

- August 2017 Competition begins in Central States Football League. Full squad of 125 students-athletes and 25 students enrolled.

### ASSETS

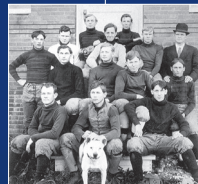
Find these digital assets and the latest football news online at [txwes.edu/footballmedia](http://txwes.edu/footballmedia)

- > Are you ready?  
Press Release, Feb. 10
- > Fast Facts
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# HISTORY OF FOOTBALL

## 1902-1914

### THE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE YEARS



\*Polytechnic College became Texas Women's College in 1914. Football ended with the cessation of male student recruitment.

Men were readmitted for the 1934-35 academic year. Football began in 1935-36. Texas Wesleyan would field competitive teams through the '30s and into early '40s under coach Gus Miller.



## THE GLORY YEARS: 1934-1942

## 1935-36 THE FIRST YEAR

Record: 8-1-2

Key rivals: Austin College,  
John Tarleton Agricultural College



## 1936-37 THE HALL SPLAWN YEARS

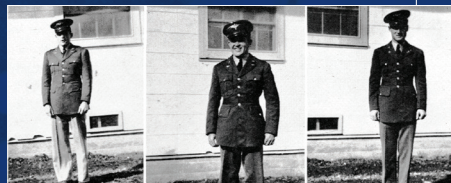
Halfback Hall Splawn was a campus legend during his time at Texas Wesleyan. Splawn, who died serving his country in World War II, led the team in many major statistical categories and was a team captain.

Texas Wesleyan wins a share of its conference co-championship and secures its place as an emerging football power. Games are played at Farrington Field. Texas Wesleyan's Student Government Association chambers hold the legendary championship footballs.



## 1940-41 THE CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR

## 1942 FOOTBALL HIATUS



Many of Texas Wesleyan's former football stars served with distinction during World War II, when football went on hiatus during the war. Intramural football returned after the war.

## 2016

### 75 YEARS LATER, THE LEGEND CONTINUES

Texas Wesleyan votes to reinstate football. Recruitment begins for the 2016-17 red-shirt leadership class.

## 2017 – THE GAMES BEGIN!