



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2007 PACIFIC LIFE HOLIDAY BOWL MATCH-UP ANNOUNCED

Arizona State, Texas to square off December 27th at Qualcomm Stadium

The Arizona State University Sun Devils and University of Texas Longhorns have accepted invitations to play in the 30th annual Pacific Life Holiday Bowl, 2007 President Rudy Castruita announced today. The game will be played Thursday, December 27th at 5 p.m. (PST) at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, California. The game will be televised nationally on ESPN.

"Qualcomm Stadium will be the place to be on December 27th," Castruita said. "The Sun Devils and Longhorns are going to bring exciting brands of football, heart-pounding marching bands, and thousands of loyal and loud fans."

First year head coach Dennis Erickson led Arizona State to a 10-2 record and a share of the Pac-10 title. The 10 wins are the most since ASU won 11 in 1996, the last time they won a Pac-10 championship. They finished their 2007 Pac-10 Conference schedule with a record of 7-2.

"We are tremendously excited to be playing in the Pacific Life Holiday Bowl," said Erickson. "It will be a top matchup of Pac-10 and Big 12 teams with the University of Texas. Our players will receive a positive bowl experience in San Diego."

Led by junior quarterback Rudy Carpenter, the Sun Devils finished the regular season with a 7-1 home mark and a 3-1 record on the road. Carpenter threw for 3,015 yards and 23 touchdowns during the regular season, the fourth most single season passing yards in school history. Troy Nolan led a ferocious ASU defense, intercepting six passes, the most by a Sun Devil since Nathan LaDuke had six in 1989.

This will be the Sun Devils third trip to the Holiday Bowl. They were defeated by Arkansas 18-17 in 1985, and by Kansas State 34-27 in 2002.

Under head coach Mack Brown, Texas finished the regular season with a 9-3 overall record, 5-3 in the Big 12 Conference. The nine wins marked the 10th straight season that the Longhorns have posted at least nine victories.

“We're looking forward to getting out to San Diego and preparing for another great Pacific Life Holiday Bowl,”said Brown. “There's great weather, wonderful events and most importantly friendly, helpful and enthusiastic folks around all of the time. It will be a great experience for our guys.”

The Longhorns are led on offense by sophomore quarterback Colt McCoy. In 2007, McCoy connected on 64.9% of his pass attempts (255-of-393) for 3,129 yards and 21 touchdowns. His passer rating of 140.2 ranks him 24th in the NCAA. He also is the team's

second leading rusher with 408 yards. The Longhorns defense is led by senior defensive tackles Derek Lokey and Frank Okam. The defense has allowed 24.6 points, 374.8 yards and 99.3 rushing yards per game. They have held their opponents under 300 total yards five times and only allowed six teams to reach 100 yards rushing.

The Longhorns return to the Holiday Bowl for the fourth time. They beat Washington 47-43 in 2001, and were defeated by Oregon 35-30 in 2000 and by Washington State 28-20 in 2003.

This will be the first ever meeting of the two universities.

Tickets for the 2007 Pacific Life Holiday Bowl can be purchased by calling TicketMaster at 619-220-TIXS (8497), or by visiting www.PacificLifeHolidayBowl.com.

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