



# SAM HOUSTON STATE BEARKAT BASEBALL

2017 NCAA Lubbock Regional Champions

14

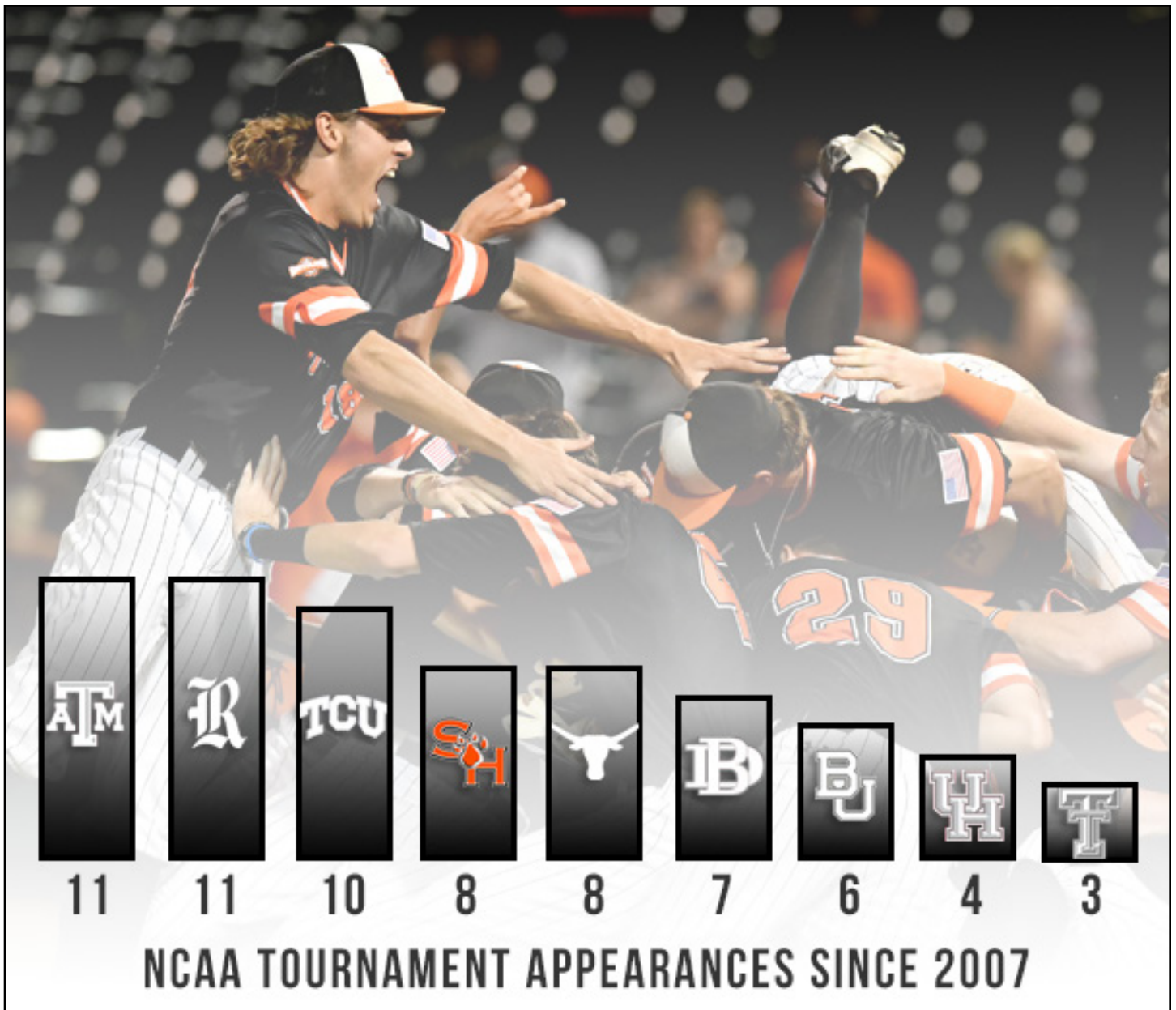
**NCAA TOURNAMENT  
APPEARANCES**

1

**NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIP**

57

**PLAYERS SELECTED  
IN MLB DRAFT**



With a program as established as the name itself, Sam Houston baseball concluded the 2017 season at the height of its existence, capturing an NCAA Regional title for the first time in program history in route to advancing to the NCAA Tallahassee Super Regional. The Bearkats boast five NCAA Tournament appearances in the last six seasons and have won three Southland titles in the past two years. While on-field success has surged, so has investment in the program. In 2006, the \$5.5 million Don Sanders Stadium opened and has since been regarded as one of the finest in the state. In 2014, Sam Houston unveiled its top-of-the-line \$300,000 video board, offering replays, player information and a visual component to the game day experience. During the 2016 season, the Kats unveiled a \$1.2 million AstroTurf playing surface helping ensure Sam Houston is well-equipped in the arm's race that is college athletics.

#EatEmUpKats



# UNDER GUIDANCE OF MATT DEGGS

## **SAM HOUSTON STATE (2014-PRESENT)**

*First back-to-back 40-plus win seasons in D1 program history (2016, 2017)  
Consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances including Lubbock Regional champions  
Three Southland Conference championships between 2016 - 2017.  
Nine players selected in MLB Draft in three seasons  
Top-two marks in program history for strikeouts in a season (2016, 2017)*

## **LOUISIANA RAGIN' CAJUNS (2012-2014)**

*No. 1 national ranking for first time in athletic department history  
Sun Belt record 58 wins, nation's top offense, one win shy of CWS in 2014  
Top 5 in nation in eight offensive categories following 2013 season  
In two full seasons: 101-30, two Sun Belt championships, one Regional championship*

## **TEXAS A&M AGGIES (2006-2011)**

*5 Big XII Championships, 5 NCAA Regionals, 3 Super Regionals, 1 CWS appearance  
Big XII records in 16 straight conference wins, 151 stolen bases in a season  
Two Big XII players of the year, nine All-Americans, 15 First-Team All-Big XII members  
Between 2009-2011: Texas A&M hit .309, 232 HRs, 1,300 RBI 2000+ hits*

## **ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS (2003-2005)**

*Helped Razorbacks to 2004 SEC Championship, College World Series appearance  
Coached three All-SEC players, three freshman All-Americans  
Team hit .278 prior to Deggs' arrive, .303 in 2005 (best by Razorback team in 8 seasons)*

**"One of only a handful of coaches in the nation to have won both SEC, Big XII titles..."**



# TEAM VISION

The secret ingredient to success is showing up, punching the time card, rolling up your sleeves and working hard with great attitude, approach, intensity & toughness. It's not enough just to earn it, we must ensure we deserve to be champions by being great at what we control and taking pride in being the absolute best at the stuff no one else cares about. Where others hope, we EXPECT greatness in every area of our program.

Our mission as coaches is to develop well-rounded men, who when they graduate from Sam Houston are prepared to make a positive impact within their families, businesses and communities. Secondly, we will develop you as a player. If God gave you the ability, then our job is to bring that out, cultivate that ability and prepare you to play at the next level. We are not looking for players to play to us; we want players to play through us and to the next level. The most important business decision you will make at SHSU is the "want to" of earning your degree. The degree is the key that unlocks the door to life after baseball. Lastly, and not to be undersold, we WILL win championship rings together.

What you can control, takes no talent ... just a lot of "want to." This includes making a difference in the community, carrying a 3.0 GPA, staying on track to graduate, playing hard in everything you do, playing for each other and making someone else better every day. Simply put, our vision is that if you can see it, work for it and play bigger than you are, ALL things are possible.

*Matt Deegan*

You Retweeted

NCAA Baseball @NCAACWS · 5/27/17  
SOUTHLAND STRONG!!

Sam Houston State  
Conference Champions  
AQ on the #RoadToOmaha

Sam Houston State BEARKATS

You and 2 others

2 222 335

You Retweeted

Kendall Rogers @KendallRogersD1

Said earlier this week to keep a close eye on @BarkatsBSB. Now you know why. #SHSU advances to the Super Regional round to face FSU/ Auburn.

6/5/17, 4:59 PM

57 Retweets 153 Likes

You Retweeted

NCAA Baseball @NCAACWS · 6/3/17  
EAT EM UP KATS!!

Game 2 in Lubbock goes to Sam Houston... A 5-4 victory over Arizona. #RoadToOmaha

2017 WINNER

You and SHSU Athletics

174 388

Sam Houston Baseball @BarkatsBSB

We have arrived. 🛫

#RoadToOmaha #EatEmUpKats

0:26

6/8/17, 3:29 PM from Tallahassee, FL

You Retweeted

NCAA Baseball @NCAACWS · 6/10/17  
Sam Houston heads to Tallahassee for its first-ever Super Regional against Florida State!

#RoadToOmaha on ESPN2  
es.pn/2s8zE5p

Now

You and 3 others

34 63



Sam Houston Baseball @BarkatsBSB · 6/8/17  
Next stop: Tallahassee, Florida

It's travel day as we gear up for the Supers and a matchup with Florida State.

#RoadToOmaha #EatEmUpKats

NCAA TALLAHASSEE SUPER REGIONAL  
SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY  
ESPN2

5 84 229

You Retweeted

Sports Illustrated @Sinow · 6/12/17  
Sam Houston State coach Matt Deggs gave an incredible, moving speech after their team's season-ending loss to FSU (📺: Bearkat Sports Network)

2:07

36 1,339 2,423

You Retweeted

NCAA Baseball @NCAACWS · 6/5/17  
WELCOME TO SUPER REGIONALS!

Sam Houston advances to Supers for the first time in program history! #RoadToOmaha

SAM HOUSTON ST.

You and SHSU Athletics

17 1,014 1,497

You Retweeted

NCAA Baseball @NCAACWS · 6/1/17  
BRYCE JOHNSON

#1 in Stolen Bases (30)  
Best in Tourney. #RoadToOmaha

BRYCE JOHNSON  
SAM HOUSTON STATE  
STOLEN BASES - 30

86 256

Sam Houston Baseball @BarkatsBSB · 6/5/17  
One game. Winner-take-all.

Super Regionals on the line. Sam Houston and Texas Tech coming your way at 2 p.m.

#RoadToOmaha #EatEmUpKats

GAMEDAY

3 54 107



# DON SANDERS STADIUM



“

D1BASEBALL.COM

THE BEARKATS MADE **MAJOR WAVES** IN 2006, WHEN THEY BUILT \$5.5 MILLION **DON SANDERS STADIUM**, WHICH TO THIS DAY, REMAINS ONE OF THE BETTER MID-MAJOR PARKS IN THE REGION.

”



## “... THE CROWN JEWEL OF THE SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE ...”

### TOP-15 ATTENDANCE MARKS - SINGLE GAME

Game	Date	Attendance	Result
1. #16 Texas	Feb. 22, 2017	2,815	L, 7-2
2. #9 Texas A&M	May 1, 2012	2,036	L, 10-0
3. #5 Texas A&M	May 6, 2008	1,821	L, 13-9
4. Texas A&M	April 16, 2013	1,752	W, 9-8 (11)
5. Baylor	March 17, 2015	1,729	L, 4-3 (10)
6. Texas State	March 28, 2016	1,520	W, 8-6
T7. Rice	March 28, 2017	1,517	L, 5-3
T7. Texas A&M	May 4, 2010	1,517	L, 3-1
9. McNeese	April 29, 2017	1,477	L, 10-2
10. Incarnate Word	May 20, 2017	1,470	W, 15-1; 3-1
11. Baylor	April 8, 2014	1,336	W, 4-3
12. #25 Oklahoma	Feb. 27, 2016	1,263	W, 7-2
13. Nevada	Feb. 17, 2017	1,262	W, 1-0
14. Wichita State	Feb. 13, 2015	1,257	W, 8-5
15. Texas A&M	Feb. 14, 2006	1,253	L, 7-4

### TOP-15 ATTENDANCE MARKS - SOUTHLAND SINGLE GAME

Game	Date	Attendance	Result
1. McNeese	April 29, 2017	1,477	L, 10-2
2. Incarnate Word	May 20, 2017	1,470	W, 15-1; 3-1
3. Stephen F. Austin	April 9, 2016	1,140	W, 8-6
4. A&M-Corpus Christi	May 3, 2015	1,132	W, 3-2
5. A&M-Corpus Christi	May 18, 2017	1,114	W, 19-1
6. McNeese	April 30, 2017	1,112	W, 8-6
7. Northwestern St.	March 30, 2014	1,102	L, 3-1
8. Stephen F. Austin	April 8, 2016	1,090	W, 7-3
9. McNeese	April 28, 2017	1,071	W, 10-9
10. Abilene Christian	April 24, 2016	1,046	W, 2-1 (13)
11. A&M-Corpus Christi	May 1, 2015	1,034	W, 3-2
12. Northwestern St.	March 19, 2016	1,032	W, 2-1
13. A&M-Corpus Christi	March 17, 2017	1,028	W, 12-3
14. Houston Baptist	May 21, 2016	1,019	W, 5-4
15. Lamar	May 16, 2015	1,015	L, 3-2 (10)

- Don Sanders Baseball Stadium, Sam Houston State University's \$5.5 million facility, opened Feb. 11, 2006, with a 16-3 victory over Texas Southern.

- Sam Houston is 241-120 (.667) all-time at the The Don including a 25-9 record at the facility in 2017.

- The stadium is named to honor Houston entrepreneur and philanthropist Don Sanders who donated \$1 million to establish an endowment fund to enhance the baseball program at Sam Houston State University, Sanders' alma mater.

- Among Sam Houston's top-15 attendance marks, seven were set during 2016 or 2017.

- Sam Houston unveiled a new top-of-the-line \$300,000 video board for the 2014 season. The board is 31 feet, 10.4 inches tall by 36 feet wide and features a 20mm video display with 198 lines of resolution by 360 columns of resolution.

- Prior to the 2016 season, Sam Houston began the installation of a new 183,040-square foot AstroTurf surface. It includes 105,340-square feet of green turf, 12,750-square feet of skin area and a warning track of 19,560-square feet. The entire surface is made up entirely of turf, including areas of the infield, warning track and foul territory where dirt used to lie.

- The \$1.4 million AstroTurf project, which took roughly 2 ½ months to complete leading into the 2016 season, features logos painted in foul territory as well as the official 'SH Paw' logo placed boldly in center field.

- The seating capacity is 1,163 with the field dimensions measuring at 330 feet down the left-field line, 375 feet to left center, 400 feet to center field, 375 feet to right center and 330 feet to right field.





HATS: TRI-COLORED

HATS: BLACK

HATS: ORANGE

JERSEY: WHITE

JERSEY: ORANGE

JERSEY: GRAY

JERSEY: BLACK

PANTS: WHITE

PANTS: PINSTRIPE

PANTS: GRAY



# UNIFORMS



# BASEBALL FACILITIES



“We have unparalleled support. The amount of people who have come out of Sam Houston and give back is mind blowing. The unbelievable support and facilities were important factors in leading me here.”  
- head coach Matt Deggs

The Bud and Joan Haney Diamond Room (above), opened in 2007, and provides a multi-purpose meeting and lounge area within the Bearkat baseball facility.

The baseball operations building offers first-class amenities - offices, clubhouses, training rooms, players' lounge and indoor cages.





# PRO

# KATS



**Ryan Tepera**  @RTepera · 2d

Back in my home state. No better feeling than being able to play in front of friends and family who've always supported you #Bearkats



6

20

216



With three selections in 2017, a total of 57 Bearkats have been taken in the Major League Baseball Draft. A total of 14 players are currently active in professional baseball.

The Bearkats have a streak of at least one player drafted each of the past 12 seasons and have seen players taken in 16 of the previous 18 seasons since the turn of the new millenium. Below is a look at each draft class.

<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Round</b>
<b>2017</b>		
Bryce Johnson	San Francisco Giants	6th
Heath Donica	Oakland Athletics	21st
Robie Rojas	Milwaukee Brewers	38th
<b>2016</b>		
Greg Belton	Los Angeles Angels	27th
<b>2015</b>		
Logan Boyd	Boston Red Sox	19th
Andrew Godail	Philadelphia Phillies	26th
Ryan Brinley	Washington Nationals	27th
Collin Yelich	Atlanta Braves	29th
Alex Bisacca	New York Yankees	35th
<b>2014</b>		
Tyler Eppler	Pittsburgh Pirates	6th
Ryan O'Hearn	Kansas City Royals	8th
Corey Toups	Kansas City Royals	15th
Carter Burgess	Tampa Bay Rays	28th
Colt Atwood	Oakland Athletics	38th
<b>2013</b>		
Cody Dickson	Pittsburgh Pirates	4th
Caleb Smith	New York Yankees	14th
<b>2012</b>		
Justin Jackson	Miami Marlins	27th
<b>2011</b>		
Brent Powers	Oakland Athletics	18th
Matt Shelton	Los Angeles Dodgers	24th
Chris Andreas	Seattle Mariners	39th
<b>2010</b>		
Dallas Gallant	Minnesota Twins	23rd
<b>2009</b>		
Ryan Tepera	Toronto Blue Jays	19th
<b>2008</b>		
Keith Stein	Detroit Tigers	29th
Bobby Verbick	San Diego Padres	30th
<b>2007</b>		
Luke Pridhoda	Arizona Diamondbacks	24th
<b>2006</b>		
Dustin Martin	New York Mets	26th
<b>2004</b>		
Dustin Craig	Pittsburgh Pirates	23rd
<b>2003</b>		
Jordan Tata	Detroit Tigers	16th
<b>2002</b>		
Andy Warren	Detroit Tigers	8th

<b>2000</b>		
Kelly Eddlemon	Tampa Bay Devil Rays	12th
<b>1998</b>		
Greg Kubes	Philadelphia Phillies	14th
Jonathan Harraid	Milwaukee Brewers	27th
<b>1996</b>		
Daniel Jenkins	Cincinnati Reds	28th
<b>1995</b>		
Stephen Pridhoda	Kansas City Royals	20th
<b>1994</b>		
Jeff Jensen	Philadelphia Phillies	18th
<b>1990</b>		
Tom Jones	Philadelphia Phillies	33rd
<b>1989</b>		
Chris Burton	Atlanta Braves	28th
<b>1987</b>		
Steve Sparks	Milwaukee Brewers	5th
<b>1985</b>		
Kevin Armstrong	New York Mets	18th
Ray Crone	Baltimore Orioles	21st
Richard Johnson	Houston Astros	30th
<b>1984</b>		
Kevin Renz	Chicago White Sox	2nd
<b>1982</b>		
Paul Robinson	Philadelphia Phillies	34th
<b>1980</b>		
Glenn Wilson	Detroit Tigers	1st
<b>1978</b>		
Don Welchel	Baltimore Orioles	7th
<b>1977</b>		
Billy Smith	Houston Astros	14th



*Steve Sparks, an eighth-round pick in 1987, played 11 seasons in the major leagues between 1995-2004.*

## MLB DRAFT SELECTIONS/MLB PLAYERS

### 1976

Rick Matula	Atlanta Braves	14th
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### 1975

Willis Stewart	Chicago Cubs	6th
Frederick Warren	Cincinnati Reds	7th
Ron Kainer	Chicago Cubs	9th
Karl Rieger	St. Louis Cardinals	16th

### 1971

George Whitley	Pittsburgh Pirates	7th
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### 1967

Ronald Matney	New York Mets	5th
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### 1966

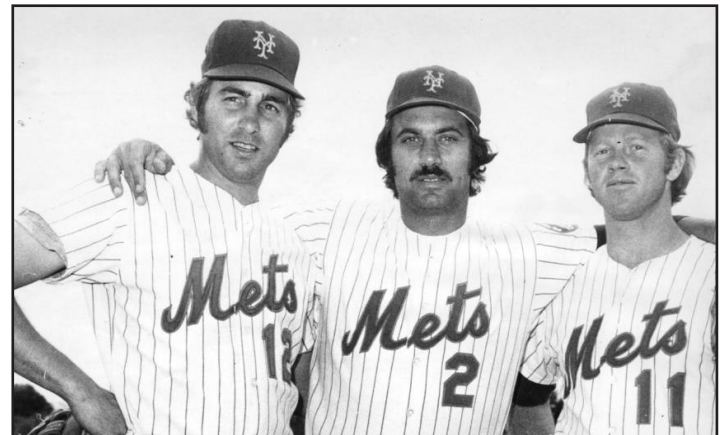
Ken Boswell	New York Mets	4th
Phil Hennigan	Cleveland Indians	4th
Albert Choate	Los Angeles Dodgers	4th
William Barkley	Boston Red Sox	20th

### MAJOR LEAGUE PLAYERS

Player	Teams	Years
Ray Benge	Cleveland Indians	1925-26
	Philadelphia Phillies	1928-32
	Brooklyn Dodgers	1933-35
	Boston Bees	1936
	Philadelphia Phillies	1936
Ken Boswell	Cincinnati Reds	1938
	New York Mets	1967-74
Fred Beene	Houston Astros	1975-77
	Baltimore Orioles	1968-70
	New York Yankees	1972-74
Phil Hennigan	Cleveland Indians	1974-75
	New York Mets	1973
Robert Manuel	Cleveland Indians	1969-72
	New York Mets	1973
Rick Matula	Cincinnati Reds	2009
	Boston Red Sox	2010
Billy Smith	Atlanta Braves	1979-81
Steve Sparks	Houston Astros	1981
	Milwaukee Brewers	1995-96
	California Angels	1998-99
	Detroit Tigers	2000-03
	Oakland Athletics	2003
Jordan Tata	Arizona Diamondbacks	2004
	Detroit Tigers	2006-07
Ryan Tepera	Toronto Blue Jays	2015-now
Don Welch	Baltimore Orioles	1982-83
Glenn Wilson	Detroit Tigers	1982-83
	Philadelphia Phillies	1984-87
	Seattle Mariners	1988
	Pittsburgh Pirates	1989-90
	Houston Astros	1989-90; 93



Entering 2017, two Bearcats rank among the Kansas City Royals' top 30 prospects including Ryan O'Hearn (pictured), who sits at No. 7 and Corey Toups who ranks 23rd.



Ken Boswell (left) played eight seasons with the Mets and another three with the Astros for a total of 930 games. Robert Manuel (below) pitches for the Red Sox in 2010.



MLB DRAFT SELECTIONS BY TEAM



Ray Crone  
Don Welchel



Logan Boyd  
William Barkley



Kevin Renz



Phil Hennigan



Keith Stein  
Jordan Tata  
Andy Warren  
Glenn Wilson



Richard Johnson  
Billy Smith



Ryan O'Hearn  
Corey Toups  
Stephen Pihoda



Greg Belton



Dallas Gallant



Alex Bisacca  
Caleb Smith



Colt Atwood  
Brent Powers  
Heath Donica



Chris Andreas



Carter Burgess  
Kelly Eddlemon



Ryan Tepera



Luke Pihoda



Collin Yelich  
Chris Burton  
Rick Matula



Willis Stewart  
Ron Kainer



Daniel Jenkins  
Frederick Warren



Matt Shelton  
Albert Choate



Justin Jackson



Jonathan Harraid  
Steve Sparks  
Robie Rojas



Dustin Martin  
Kevin Armstrong  
Ronald Matney  
Ken Boswell



Andrew Godail  
Greg Kubes  
Jeff Jensen  
Tom Jones  
Paul Robinson



Tyler Eppler  
Cody Dickson  
Dustin Craig  
George Whileyman



Bobby Verbick



Bryce Johnson



Karl Rieger



Ryan Brinley



# EXCELLENCE



SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY



# *A Great Name in Texas Education*

Sam Houston State University is located in historic Huntsville, Texas, just an hour north of the excitement of Houston. The 316-acre campus boasts more than 20,000 students while maintaining an average class size of 25 students and 23:1 student to faculty ratio. Sam Houston ranks second among 38 public four-year universities in Texas for graduates obtaining employment within 12 months of receiving their bachelor's degree. For more, visit [shsu.edu](http://shsu.edu).



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316-acre main university campus with over \$250 million in new and renovated facilities

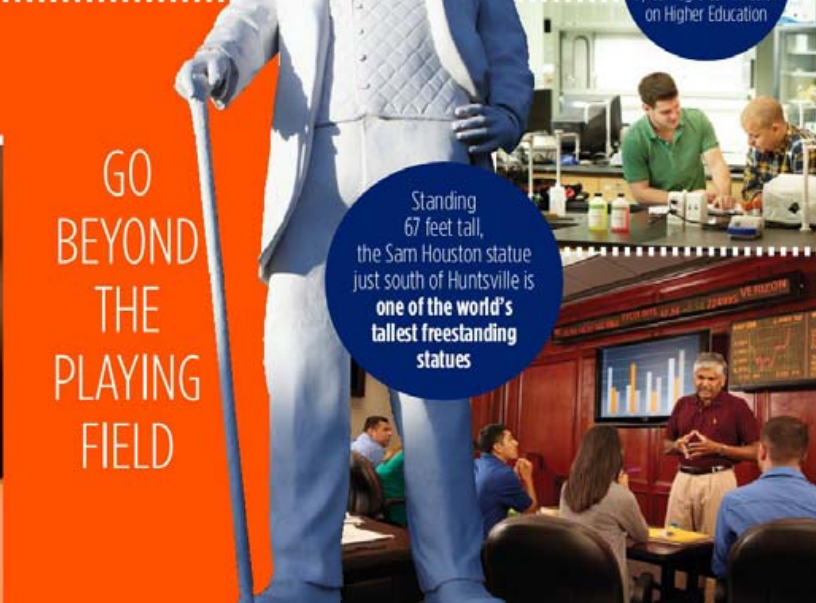
In the nation's **top 7%** of all higher education institutions by Carnegie Commission on Higher Education



## **NCAA DIVISION 1**

- SPORTS TEAMS:**  
Baseball  
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Golf  
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Outdoor Track & Field  
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Tennis  
Volleyball

[gobearkats.com](http://gobearkats.com)



**GO  
BEYOND  
THE  
PLAYING  
FIELD**

Standing 67 feet tall, the Sam Houston statue just south of Huntsville is **one of the world's tallest freestanding statues**