



From Field to Field

It was just before sundown, and the tractor needed the lights on for Summitt Hogue to see the cotton field. Ironic, he thought, that less than 48 hours ago, he was on a different field with lights shining down. But instead of looking at thousands of cotton bolls, thousands of people were looking at him.

Growing up in Wolfforth, Texas, Hogue started working on his family's cotton farm as soon as he was old enough to hold a hoe. And just like numerous other West Texas farmers' sons, he dreamed of one day playing football for the Texas Tech Red Raiders. Little did he know working on the farm would pay off in big ways for his football dream.

Hogue grew up around agriculture; his family owned a cotton farm and he was active in the National FFA Organization – showing pigs and participating in various Leadership Development Events and Career Development Events. Dale Schaffner was Hogue's agriscience instructor at Frenship ISD for eight years and saw Hogue excel in the FFA.

"I had to push Summitt pretty hard; he's a lady's man," Schaffner said, before conceding that although he fully believes Hogue can charm his way to the top of any situation, he will still work extremely hard to get there.

Hogue said he is thankful for Schaffner pushing him so hard.

"My ag teacher made me who I am today," he said about Schaffner.

While dedicating much of his time to the FFA, Hogue also found time to dedicate to football, and he

worked just as hard at that. Before his senior year, he attended a Texas Tech football camp and had the fastest 40-yard dash time. Later in his senior year, Coach Tommy Tuberville offered Hogue a preferred walk-on spot on the Red Raiders football team. It was an opportunity he couldn't turn down.

Hogue said being a walk-on is not easy. It is completely different than being one of the scholarship players, and it requires much more work to be able to prove himself. But thanks to his background on the farm and in FFA, Hogue is not afraid of a little hard work.

Aaron Uzzell, assistant strength coach for Texas Tech football, can attest to this.

"His work ethic is really good," Uzzell said. "He's one of those kids where he knows exactly what he's supposed to do, when he's supposed to do it. He's prompt. He never misses anything. You really don't have to worry about him messing up, so to speak."

It's this kind of work ethic that earned Hogue a chance to prove himself on the field. During halftime of the 2012

season opener against Northwestern State University, Hogue stuffed his face with protein shakes and snacks, not expecting to play any. Shortly after, Tuberville told him to go for Tech's next kickoff. It was a new and unexpected experience for Hogue, who was successful from the start.

After proving himself on the field during the game against Northwestern State University, Tuberville named Hogue Tech's Special Teams Player of the Week and placed him on the travel squad.

Hogue then led special teams in solo tackles for the 2012 season.

"You've got Summitt, who's a local kid, who walked on, which is hard to do, and he earned a spot on our travel squad playing special teams. And he's played in games," Uzzell said. "That's a huge accomplishment."

It's not just the coaches praising Hogue. His teammates are taking notice of his hard work and dedication, too. Redshirt sophomore defensive tackle Donte' Phillips speaks very highly of Hogue.

"As a teammate, Summitt is the type of guy you want to have with you when you come running out of the tunnel," Phillips said. "He puts 100 percent effort in everything he does – whether it is a 5 a.m. workout or waking up to get his donut in the morning."

According to Uzzell, Phillips is not the only player who respects Hogue.

"He's just a fun guy to be around. All the players love him. To be honest," Uzzell said, "I don't think there's one player on the team that he doesn't get along with."

Even with the success Hogue has seen on the football field, he still credits his agricultural background for shaping who he is as a person and getting him where he is today, and he still works on the farm as much as he can.

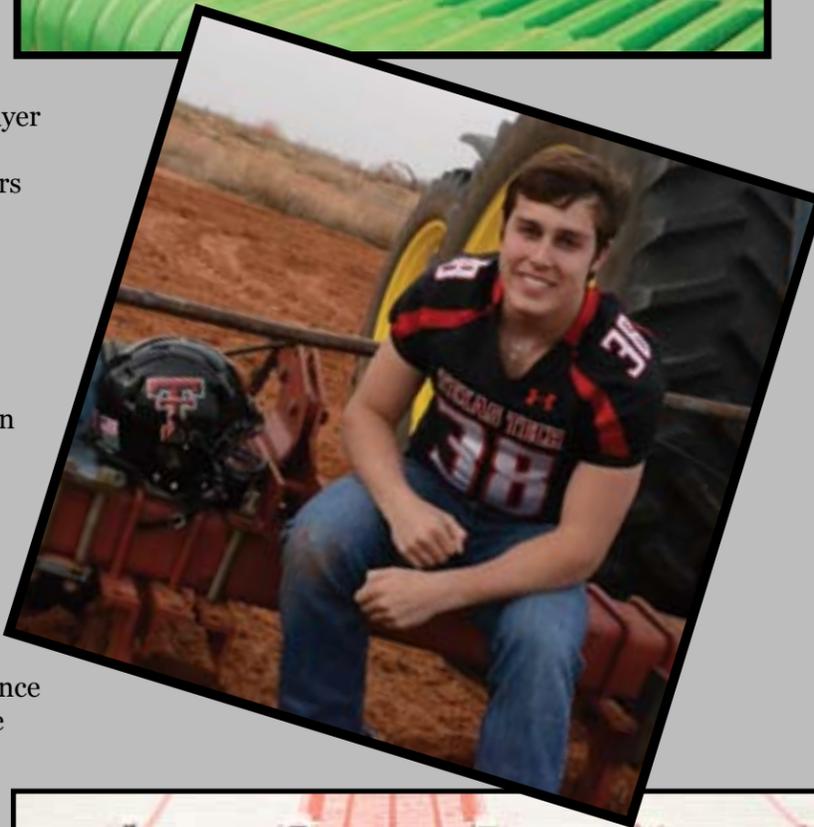
During football season, which also happens to be harvest season for cotton farmers, Hogue spends his only day off from football helping his family harvest their cotton crop.

His passion for agriculture is what keeps Hogue working hard, and it has also kept him in the industry. Hogue is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural communications. He said he loves the degree program and the passionate professors, and cannot see himself in any other degree program.

"Ag comm fits me to a T...to a Double T," Hogue said with a smile.

Because of Hogue's success in the classroom and his love for his major, he has earned academic awards through football to represent what a great fit agricultural communications is for him.

He was selected First Team All-Big 12 Academic Team for 2012. To qualify for this honor, student-athletes have to participate in 60 percent of the competitive schedule and keep a GPA of 3.2 or better.



Chelsey Ahrens, a doctoral student in agricultural communications, has taught two of the agricultural communications courses Hogue has taken. The Academic Team honor comes as no surprise to her.

“I have a lot of respect for Summitt,” Ahrens said. “Being a student and being an athlete is not an easy task. Summitt’s days are jammed packed, but he works extremely hard to ensure his academics are above average.”

Ahrens said Hogue is very concerned about his grades. She said he is not afraid to ask questions and always strives to do his best.

From academics to tackling, cotton field to football field, Summitt Hogue excels. With a new coaching staff to impress, Hogue knows his strong work ethic will be much of the deciding factor on playing time this upcoming season. He knows the work ethic he has built from the hours spent behind the wheel of a tractor, FFA, and being involved in agriculture are to thank for his time beneath the stadium lights. **T**

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