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The Prospector, February 15, 2011

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UNION CINEMA
 'Fair Game' shows
 Feb. 25 & 26
 ENT • 5

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BACK ON WINNING TRACK
 Miners rebound from loss
 from 3-game losing skid
 SPORTS • 7



King of the Hill

Miners stay on top of C-USA

BY WILLIAM VEGA
 The Prospector

The versatility of SMU was ready to spell trouble for the Miners but down the stretch, it was the depth of head coach Tim Floyd's bench that outplayed the Mustangs 67-57 in front of 10,213 fans, Feb. 12.

"It's a team that can hurt you from so many different areas," Floyd said. "They put you in so many situations where you have to double him and decide where you are going to help from."

UTEP (19-5, 7-2 Conference-USA) ran out to an early 10-2 advantage within the first three-minutes of the game but SMU (15-9, 6-4 C-USA) showed why they are the

number one three-point shooting team in the conference.

The Mustangs, a team that has overcome four 11-plus-point deficits this season, rebounded from their early flaws with a 20-6 run. Led by 5-foot 10-inch guard Jeremiah Samarrippas, SMU went 5-of-6 from three-point range during the run. But Floyd's Miners turned up the defense forcing the Mustangs to miss their last three three-pointers of the half en route to a 36-32 halftime lead.

"We got a better feel of their offense," Floyd said. "This is one of the most sophisticated offenses in our league. By guarding it for a half our guys got a better sense of it."

The Miners lock-down defense overlapped into the second half forcing SMU to go 2-9 from the 3-point range while forcing eight more turnovers.

"We had a couple of three's early but we know not to fall into that trap," guard Christian Polk said. "We know we can knock down

three's and get baskets whenever we want. Everybody did a good job turning up the defense and buckling down in the second-half."

Floyd used a barrage of big-men to contain 6-foot 9-inch forward Papa Dia allowing his defense to focus on shutting down the three. Junior forward Gabriel McCulley avoided foul-trouble and came off the bench to help shut-down Dia.

"I tried to get underneath him a couple of times and get some stops on him because their offense runs through him," McCulley said. "I tried to play a box-in-one on him and get him out of the game. We had to make stops on the defensive end and they all came through Papa Dia and that's what I tried to do."

Once the ball was in their hands, UTEP used accurate shooting and solid ball-control to eliminate missed opportunities. The Miners went 10-19 in the second half while

see KING on page 8

Student Life

UTEP encourages students to MOVE

BY CELIA AGUILAR
 The Prospector

More than 1,000 students will hit the streets of El Paso Feb. 19 as a part of UTEP's second annual Project MOVE.

"Project MOVE provides a window as to how the Miner nation can provide solutions to some of the community's physical and social needs through leadership and participation," said Tammie Aragon Campos, assistant dean of students and vice president for student affairs. "By participating as a volunteer, students will have an opportunity to experience first-hand the needs of the community, the importance of leading through service and the value of civic engagement."

The project named Miner Opportunities for Volunteer Experiences is an initiative supported by several campus departments in partnership with non-profit organizations around El Paso, which establishes opportunities for students to become engaged in the community.

"The projects are designed to be completed in one day and to provide volunteers with an introduction to the services provided by the organization," Aragon said. "The projects range from making blankets, to painting, to landscaping, to playing sports with children with physical challenges, to packing and distributing food to needy families."

A few of this year's partners include the American Red Cross, Center Against Family Violence, El Paso Skate Park Association, El Paso Zoological Society, Latinitas and Paso Del Norte Civil Rights Project.

Students can register online at project-move.utep.edu and choose which of the nearly 40 projects they would like to take part in. On the first day of online registration, more than 840 students signed up, surpassing the total amount of volunteers in 2010.

"Last year, our first volunteer day resulted in 817 volunteers providing over 3,250 hours of service in the El Paso community," Aragon said. "Responses

from volunteers who participated last year indicate that many volunteered for the first time through UTEP Project MOVE and they continue to serve today."

Being a part of the process allows students to see the needs of the community by getting directly involved with non-profit organizations and finding out about the kind of work they do. Last year, Gina Elisa Cortez, sophomore double major in education and psychology, volunteered with the Reynolds Home, a shelter for homeless women and children, to fix bike ramps for the youth at the shelter.

"It was more than just manual labor or just a simple project; it was a real sense of accomplishment. We got to get involved, interact with the kids and find out more about the Reynolds Home," Cortez said. "Working with non-profits means we get to find out more about them and what they do, things we'd probably never even heard of."



Special to The Prospector

see MOVE on page 4 UTEP students participate in last year's Project MOVE.

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Column

‘Call of Juarez’ continues to show the cultural divide

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN

The Prospector



Can videogames ever be taken seriously? Ubisoft, the third largest multi-platform publisher announced Feb. 7 that they will release the third game in the “Call of Juarez” series, developed by Techland. The latest entry, “Call of Juarez: The Cartel,” allows the gamer, as the press release says, to “embark on a bloody road trip from Los Angeles to Juárez, Mexico, immersing yourself in a gritty plot with interesting characters and a wide variety of game play options.”

Very little, aside from a vague press release and few screenshots (which really look more like concept art) has even been released on the game. However, just the idea of this game seems to be an affront to everyone here, including the media, which has lumped the game in with the flash/app store game, “Smuggle Truck: Operation Immigration.” Fox News Latino even interviewed UTEP’s professor of political science, Kathleen Staudt, who said that this game is the last thing citizens of Mexico need.

But when movies or television shows are made about this topic, we herald them. But that’s because they are mov-

ies and this is a game, right? Games are for kids, right?

Take movies like “No Country for Old Men” or “Kill Bill” (either volume), both of which have multiple characters get shot to death in our own wondrous city. “No Country for Old Men” has one of its major characters shot to death in the doorway of his hotel room and an innocent woman killed in the pool. “Kill Bill” includes a church filled with people who get assassinated and an injured pregnant woman who barely escapes. She gets to go to a hospital in El Paso...where she is in a coma and gets raped repeatedly during her stay.

Luckily, they do not actually show any of this on screen, they usually just cut to the carnage after it is done. That is much better than having a game that has you shoot a group of computer-generated pixels to death. I mean, you see that entire pixel-on-pixel carnage and that is something I don’t think anyone could probably take. Especially the children since this might just be the first time anyone hears about violence in Juárez. The very same children that are probably also not 17 yet, which means they cannot actually get the (most-likely)mature-rated game... unless their parents buy it for them (because obviously a game called “Call of Juárez: The Cartel” with a man holding a gun on the cover won’t set off any

warning signs at all), they have some type of credit/debit card (which means they are probably 17 already), or they use their parents’ credit card (which means playing a violent videogame is probably the least of their problems).

If people are worried that adults playing this game might get the wrong idea about Juárez, I’m relatively sure that most people that do not live close to the border already have the wrong idea about Juárez. Every day, the news brings stories about the real people who are murdered over there and the real violence. Complaining about a videogame demonizing a group of people that the local and national news have already done a pretty good job of demonizing is utterly idiotic.

All anyone is doing is continuing to demonize videogames (including The El Paso Times) in their own special half-ass way, basing entire articles on a tiny press release.

After saying all this, do I think this game is in poor taste? Absolutely, this will be an epic PR nightmare for Ubisoft. I’m probably dumb to expect a game that could represent the violence in a sensitive way. But, hey, we could hope, right? That is the only way the medium will ever be taken seriously.

Matthew Munden may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

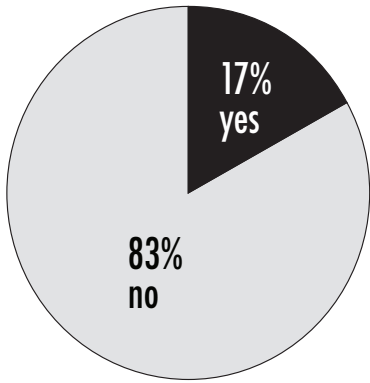


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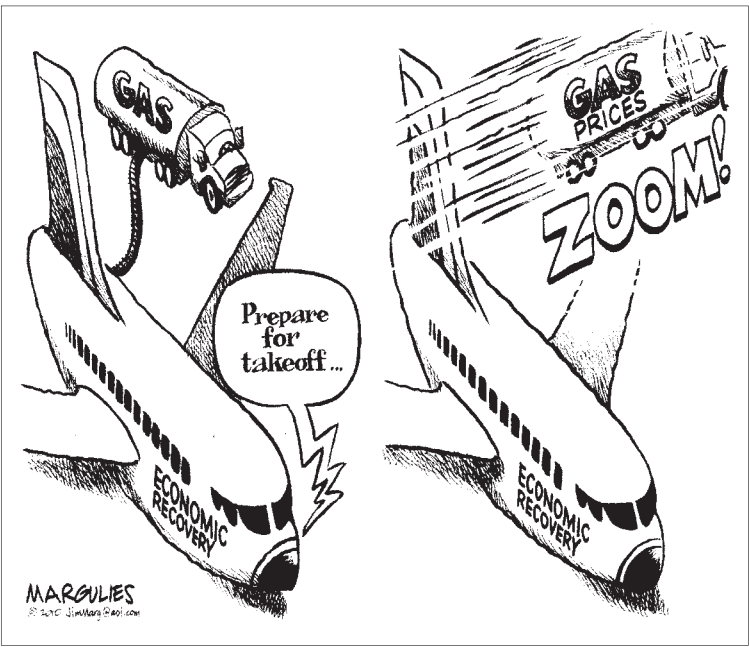
WHAT DO

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Politics

Texas politicians preach smaller government

BY DAVID ACOSTA
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

WASHINGTON- Americans have had enough of government spending and federal deficits. This was the message delivered by two of Texas' best-known politicians Feb. 11 at the Conservative Political Action Conference.

Using national health care as an example of how the federal government has expanded, Gov. Rick Perry said the plan passed by Congress was unconstitutional and "a train wreck."

"On this, or any other area of government overreach, we must be united in sending a clear and simple message to Washington. Enough!" the Republican governor said.

Rep. Ron Paul, R, who spoke just before Perry, said it was not just the actions of the Democratic Party that have led to the nation's budget and debt crisis. Members of the Republican Party who supported government spending on things such as health care are also to blame, he said.

"There's been a lot of talk about bipartisanship after the election, but I believe we've had way too much bipartisanship for about 60 years," Paul said.

Paul, who called for a national flat tax and an end to the Federal Reserve during his 2008 presidential bid, seemed to draw a crowd of young, vocal CPAC members from the 11,000 people registered for the three-day conference.

Paul paused for a few moments when, responding to his comments on the Federal Reserve and the government bailout of the nation's large financial institutions, his supporters spontaneously begun chanting, "End the Fed."

While Perry did not seem to have the same crowd support, he spoke firmly about what it is he believes the American people want from the federal government.

"Americans are fed up with this so-called progressive movement," Perry said. "That very long ago set aside the people's interests in favor of expanding government and raising taxes."

He devoted a large part of his time to the merits of the 10th Amendment, which guarantees states' rights. Americans want a "less intrusive" government that lives within its means, he said.

Perry also called on the federal government to protect the border between the U.S. and Mexico. He called the government's response to drug trafficking and violence along the border "an abject failure."

At one point during his speech, a member of the audience yelled out, "Run for president!"

Perry, who is believed to be considering a run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012, did not stop to acknowledge his would-be supporter, nor did he make any comment on his future political aspirations.

Greg Koontz, 48, a lawyer from Charlotte Hall, Maryland, who was in the audience, said while he has been a supporter of Paul for some time, he believes Perry would have a better chance at a presidential bid.

"I liked his speech. There is too much government meddling, particularly from Washington," Koontz said. "If he ran for president, I'd have to look more into his record but I'd consider it."

David Acosta, UTEP print media major, is an intern at the Scripps Howard Foundation's Semester in Washington program. He may be reached at prospectar@utep.edu.



SHFWIRE PHOTO BY DAVID ACOSTA
Texas Gov. Rick Perry tells the Conservative Political Action Conference Feb. 11 that Americans have had enough of big government. At least one member of the Washington audience yelled that Perry should run for president.

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Campus

New provost aims to reach tier-one status

BY DIANA ARRIETA
The Prospector

UTEP officials announced the appointment of Junius Gonzales as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, effective Feb. 1.

Gonzalez was dean and professor of the College of Behavioral and Community Sciences at the University of South Florida.

"I see that the overarching role of the provost and vice president for academic affairs at UTEP is to provide a collaborative leadership that cuts across all functions and contributes to developing, enhancing and sustaining academic programs and research/scholarship for an enterprise of higher education that exudes excellence and distinction," Gonzales said.

As the university continues their quest to reach tier-one status, the role

of provost will play a critical part. UTEP is one of six emerging universities vying for tier-one status.

Some of the criteria for reaching that status includes that a university must graduate a minimum of 200 doctoral students annually, satisfy certain academic standards and expend at least \$45 million in restricted research funds. The other universities aiming for tier-one status include Texas Tech, University of Houston, University of North Texas, UT Arlington, UT Dallas and UT San Antonio.

"This new provost will have a lot to bring to the table, a fresh perspective. Hopefully with his plans/ideas, leadership skills and commitment to the institution he will help UTEP move forward to a brighter future," said Jesus Navarrete, junior biology major.

While advancing the university's mission of progress is a priority, achieving a nationally recognized research program by gaining tier-one status is also an objective.

"Pulling together strengths, talents and opportunities to align with the wonderful strategic plan for research completed last year, which encompasses student success and learning too, will be crucial for advancing UTEP's mission," Gonzales said. "To move to tier one success will also require an honest appraisal of gaps, a need to really focus and a willingness to not be satisfied with the status quo."

According to Gonzales, spreading the word about the university across the country will help UTEP carry out this plan.

"Enhancing awareness of UTEP's incredible strengths, capabilities and diversities across the U.S., as a start, and then globally, can help attract new partnerships in academia, communities, corporations and industry and more," Gonzales said.

Through a firm academic and administrative leadership, the position of provost and vice president will contribute to pave the way for UTEP's continued success.

"I feel the new provost can bring some interesting perspectives on what the university needs to do in order to continue advancing," said Janet Quiroz, junior industrial engineering major. "This new position will enable him to help UTEP become a better recognized university at the national level."

Diana Arrieta may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



Special to The Prospector
Junius Gonzales filled the position of provost for Academic Affairs Feb. 3.

What does a provost do?

- Oversees and has final responsibility for the university curriculum, faculty appointments, research, student affairs and academically related areas.
- Directly answers to the university's president and is usually the vice president for academic affairs at the university.
- The provost's staff works to support the duties and responsibilities of the provost and may direct centers for teaching and learning, support the development of undergraduate and graduate curricula, direct faculty credentialing efforts, hear faculty and student grievances and develop physical and software infrastructures that support the efforts of faculty and students at the university.

Source: UTEP

"To move to tier one, success will also require an honest appraisal of gaps, a need to really focus and a willingness to not be satisfied with the status quo."

- Junius Gonzales
UTEP Provost

"UTEP is recognized as a national leader in creating synergies between excellence and access, and we look very much forward to working with him over the next several years to accelerate our progress toward becoming the first national research university with a 21st century demographic," UTEP President Diana Natalicio said in a press release.

It is through leadership and strong commitment to the university that strategic plans will be developed to help UTEP advance in its mission of progress.

MOVE from page 1

This year Cortez is volunteering with the American Cancer Society to help with their signature fundraiser, Relay for Life. She said Project MOVE can help showcase this event that many may be unaware of.

"Not a lot of people on campus know about (Relay for Life). It's exciting that the UTEP community is

going to be a part of fighting cancer," Cortez said.

Besides learning about the way organizations in the community are helping meet the needs of El Paso, students are able to use the event for networking purposes.

"Getting involved with Project MOVE you get to meet professors, faculty, staff and even deans. It can

help you establish relationships. Keeping yourself involved can help with future careers or with life in general," said Krystal Reyes, senior communications major.

The United States Department of Labor reports that individuals between the ages of 16 and 24 are the least likely to volunteer. This indicates that college students may miss out on prime opportunities to establish connections with prospective employers.

For UTEP, Project MOVE is also an extension of its campaign to reach tier-one.

"The University's effort to become a tier-one university goes beyond academics. President (Diana) Natalicio challenges every office, department, student and faculty member to be the best it can be, and that includes civic engagement," Aragon said.

According to Diana Gloria, president of the Student Government Association, UTEP has an edge over other UT System universities when it comes to civic engagement.

"When I go to Austin, we're supposed to report on what kinds of community service universities do," Gloria said. "We're one of the few that actually do something throughout the year. It's good to know that UTEP is doing something in the community."

Celia Aguilar may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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Movies

Union Cinema plays critically acclaimed films for \$1

BY JACKIE DEVINE
The Prospector

Between rushing to classes and grabbing lunch on the go it's easy for students to overlook the unobtrusive, inconspicuous theater on the first floor of Union Building East. For many students, the Union Cinema, which screens both independent films and blockbusters at a discounted price, is still an undiscovered campus treasure.

The Cinema Novo Film Society—a group of UTEP students and faculty that decides what to play at the Union Cinema—screens films that usually fly under the Hollywood blockbuster radar. Independent films, documentaries, art house films and even old classic films are often shown at the Union Cinema. This month “Fair Game,” starring Academy Award nominee Naomi Watts and Academy Award winner Sean Penn will play. In the future, they plan to show “The King’s Speech” and “Black Swan,” which are currently nominated for Academy Awards.

“We use the Union Cinema to show films that may have been overlooked at the bigger cinemas around town,” said Gustavo Barraza, student film

co-coordinator and senior history major. “For example, when you go to Tinseltown there’s like 10 to 15 movies on the marquee and some of the smaller movies have pretty obscure names or titles, and so the normal movie goer will simply dismiss them and go with something with a flashier name like “Tron: Legacy.”

For regular moviegoers, seeing a film at the Union Cinema is just like going to see a film at some of the bigger movie theaters.

“It’s a very friendly environment and there are concessions like popcorn,” said Becky Montes, program coordinator for UTEP Special Events. “It’s the whole movie experience, plus tickets are cheap and the location is very convenient, since it’s right on campus.”

Students are charged \$1 to see films, while tickets for the general public cost \$2. Parking is not a problem, since most films are screened after 5 p.m.

“What can be better than meeting new people, watching great movies at a low price and getting easy access to parking?” said Oscar Moreno, student film coordinator and junior creative writing major. “The UTEP com-



Special to The Prospector
Sean Penn and Naomi Watts star in “Fair Game,” showing at the Union Cinema on Feb. 25 and 26.

munity needs to utilize this cinema. It’s too good to go unnoticed.”

The Cinema Novo Film Society wants its audience to grow to include anyone who has a love and appreciation for films. The film society was originally created for students interested in studying cinema, but encour-

ages participation from all members of the El Paso community. According to Barraza, the Union Cinema’s setting and location is more inclined to creating conversation about films, unlike larger theaters.

see CINEMA on page 6

Review

Profoundly simple, ‘The Sunset Limited’ is a masterpiece

BY MATTHEW MUNDEN
The Prospector

Take Cormac McCarthy’s interpretation of chaos and mix in a modern setting with Samuel L. Jackson and Tommy Lee Jones and the result is the masterful “The Sunset Limited.”

Directed by Jones and using a single apartment room as its only setting, this adaptation of the McCarthy play of the same name at times felt like the best parts of the ABC series, “LOST.” Jones plays an unnamed suicidal professor who, before the start of the movie, tried to take his own life by jumping in front of the Sunset Limited, a commuter train in New York City. Jackson is the ex-convict who rescued Jones and now takes up the challenge of making the suicidal professor not try to jump in front of the Limited.

What follows is something that reminded me of the play “Night, Mother,” written by Marsha Norman. In that play, a daughter tells her mother that at the end of the night she’ll commit suicide and the mother tries to talk the girl out of it. Like that play, “The Sunset Limited” sets up a sort of chess match between the two men



Special to The Prospector
“The Sunset Limited,” starring Tommy Lee Jones and Samuel L. Jackson, is based on the play written by Cormac McCarthy and is currently airing on HBO.

and has the viewers watch as each man tries to refute the other’s point.

Jones and Jackson’s characters are rooted firmly in their stances on destiny and religion. Jackson’s ex-convict believes that God does not want him to take his own life and Jones’ professor doubts the existence of a higher power and finds the world a breeding ground for nothing but misery.

The last film that Jones directed was the incredible “The Three Buri-

comes into contact with the two men are when the neighbors are shouting.

Some could criticize this movie as a dialogue that two drunk and possibly stoned philosophy students might have in their dorm room one night. However, hearing lines about that demonstrate Apollonian and Dionysian theory come from the mouths of Jackson and Jones as they argue about the notion of an all-seeing higher power that seemingly allows chaos is something that is incredible to watch.

Watching these two actors at the height of their careers delivering monologues written by the author of “Blood Meridian” is completely worth the price of a subscription to HBO. Comparing this release to the recent theatrical offerings, I don’t understand why this could not get some type of theatrical debut, just due to the craft of Jackson and Jones.

“The Sunset Limited” is the first great movie of the year and it is available at home on your television as long as you have a subscription to HBO.

5 out of 5 picks.

TTTTT

Matthew Munden may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



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ENRIQUE JEŽIK, LINES OF DIVISION, 2011.

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Network
MSRP:
Blu-Ray

Yet another re-release of an old movie on Blu-Ray. This movie features the classic line "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore." It also has the less famous (as in not at all famous) line, "Good morning, Mr. Beale. They tell me you're a madman." If I allow myself a second to not be snarky, "Network" is a really great movie. Okay, that non-snarky moment is over.

Last Tango in Paris
Blu-Ray
MSRP:

A release of a movie that haunted its stars due to the sex scenes they filmed. If you want to see Marlon



CINEMA from page 5

"Since we are at the union, there's a lot of sofas and comfy couches where people can sit on and hang out before the movie. They don't have to stand in line or on a corner, they can sit, relax and hopefully start up conversations with the stranger next to them," Barraza said. "In that way, it is very different from the big cinemas, you

basically go there with friends and aren't really given an opportunity to chat it up with strangers. Big cinemas can be pretty hostile places for conversationalists."

The Cinema Novo spring schedule lasts through April 30. For movie listings, visit utepspecialevents.com.

Jackie Devine may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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Answers to 2-10-11

BRAIN ZONE

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

		4		9		6		
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Basketball

Brown’s big game lifts Miners

BY SAL GUERRERO

The Prospector

The UTEP Miners finally found their way out of their losing trend Feb. 13 beating the Tulane Green Wave 65-61 at the Don Haskins Center.

“We’ve been working on (turnovers) and we did a better job on that,” head coach Keitha Adams said. “I thought we played hard and our team is showing a lot of character and fight. I’m real proud of them.”

The Miners (13-10, 5-6 Conference USA) committed only 12 turnovers against the Green Wave (17-7, 6-5 C-USA) at home compared to their 21 against UAB Feb. 6 and 33 at Tulane Jan. 30.

The difference maker against the Green Wave was forward Gloria Brown who contributed with 21 point and 17 rebounds in just 19 minutes.

“She was banging in there today and she definitely put up some huge numbers,” Adams said. “Today we were a good rebounding team and we took better care of the ball.”

Brown’s 17 rebounds (10 offense, seven defense) ties her for the seventh-highest in a game in program history. Even after the game Brown said she did not realize she had so many boards.

“I just think every shot is a miss and that’s the way I go at it,” Brown said. “I didn’t know (17 rebounds) was a record.”



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Junior forward Gloria Brown recorded 21 points and 17 rebounds against Tulane Feb. 13 at the Don Haskins Center.

UTEP outrebounded Tulane 44-31 but was out-shot by the Green Wave 42 percent to 36 percent.

The Miners started off the first half with an 8-0 run with forward Erica Warren and Brown coming off the

bench to contribute six points. The Green Wave broke the run with a 3-pointer from guard Tiff Aidoo followed by a quick jump shot by guard Roshaunda Barnes cutting the lead 10-6.

The Green Wave trailed most of the first half, cutting the lead with a few big shots from Barnes but they closed out the first 20 minutes of the game down 30-22.

Tulane was a second half team, chomping away at the Miners lead. The Green Wave went 13-for-27 from the floor and thanks to Aidoo hitting a 3-pointer with 8:31 left in the second they cut the lead to 43-41.

But the Miners prevailed with Brown and forward Ashley Milian contributing most to the teams second half effort. Milian finished the game with 14 points and eight rebounds, eight of her points came in the second half.

Milian and Browns fed off each other all game, keeping the Green Wave at bay with their combined 35 points and 25 rebounds.

“When (Brown) gets the ball I always know to dive and that off-post needs to get the ball,” Milian said. “I just try and do a little team work and we have a connection where we can just find each other and get an easy basket.”

For her efforts Feb., 13 Brown was named C-USA Co-Player of the Week, being the second time this year she has received this award.

Next up for the Miners is a showdown at Rice at 7 p.m. Feb. 17 in Houston.

Sal Guerrero may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Column

Miners look tournament bound

BY WILLIAM VEGA

The Prospector



Heading into their battle with Houston Feb. 19, UTEP plays four of their final six games at home, the only Conference-USA team to be that

fortunate. To add onto that fortune, the Miners will also host the C-USA tournament March 9-12.

With only four weeks left until the C-USA tournament, UTEP stands as the only team in the conference with two Associated Press votes. But unless UTEP wins the rest of their games and gets some help, the C-USA tournament may be without a top-25 team since the conference realigned to its current format in 2005.

And without one team standing out nationally in the pact, four teams shine brightest to the average C-USA fan: UTEP, Memphis, UAB and Southern Mississippi. From top-to-bottom, every team has the weapons to upset any top-team come tournament time. For example, the first and last-place teams will meet Feb. 21 when UTEP (6-2 in C-USA) faces UCF (1-8 in C-USA). This is the same UCF team that upset then-number 16 University of Florida Dec. 1 and rose to number-19 in the Associated Press rankings Dec. 27. It’s also the same last-place team that was one defensive-stop away from upsetting Memphis Jan. 26.

UTEP witnessed this during its four games between Jan. 22 and Feb. 5. The Miners faced three of the bottom-four teams in the conference during those two weeks, not including the rescheduled UCF, game meaning UTEP was set to play all four teams at the bottom. UTEP was able to post a 3-1 record during that span but faced unpredictable challenges from Houston (3-6 in C-USA), Rice (3-6 in C-USA), and Tulane (2-8 in C-USA). During this “easy” part of their schedule, UTEP won by an average of 5 points against the three teams.

Despite these minor setbacks, it has been the one-two punch of Randy Culpepper and Julian Stone that has saved the team. On Jan. 22, Culpepper scored a team-high of 18 points, but it was Julian Stone’s three-pointer with 19 seconds left that sealed the game for UTEP at Houston. On Jan. 26, Stone dished out six of his seven assists and racked up nine of his 10 rebounds to spark their second-half comeback win against Tulane. Culpepper scored 29 points and almost gave the Miners the game-winning three-pointer during their loss to Tulsa Jan. 29. Stone scored a career-high of 23 points to help UTEP hold off Rice Feb. 5.

The two will also be remembered in the record books because of this season. On Dec. 12, Stone recorded his 565th assist in a victory over Arkansas-Pine Bluff to become UTEP’s all-time assist leader. On Dec. 15, Culpepper scored 18-points against Louisiana-Monroe to pass Brandon

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Profile

Double threat plays on the field and court

BY KRISTOPHER RIVERA AND SAL GUERRERO

The Prospector

Standout athletes are a dime a dozen at the collegiate ranks, but to find a player who can excel at more than one major sports, that’s left to only the hardest working players. Standing at 6 feet 5 inches tall, freshman Kevin Perry has used his size to find a spot on both the football and basketball team at UTEP.

Coming out of Houston Westbury Christian High School in Opelousas, Louisiana, Perry was selected for the All-State basketball team as a forward and was all-district in football as a defensive end and wide receiver.

As a multi-sport athlete, it took a certain type of demeanor for Perry to succeed at the prep level.

“I think a lot of it has to do with growing up, being around the environment of a bunch of competitors, and that will to play and compete in anything I’m doing,” Perry said. “It’s having a lot of people around me that didn’t accept failure and didn’t accept me not trying to compete. I think that’s what motivated me to be the athlete I am now.”

As outstanding power forward, he was rated as the 38th best recruit in

Texas by Hoop Scoop Online and was posted as the no. 97 power forward in the country by Scouts, Inc.

Perry began his career as a Miner playing football under head coach Mike Price as a tight end. He sat out during the 2009 season due to a knee injury but in the 2010 season he saw significant playing time in all 12 games.

But now with football season over, Perry has had to transition from the gridiron to the hardwood, a feat that has not been an easy one for the freshman.

“The transition, conditioning-wise, was terrible, but I was thankful I was able to do both sports, I love to play, and I didn’t want to pass up the opportunity that was provided to me,” Perry said. “It’s something I love, so I don’t mind doing it.”

Price and basketball head coach Tim Floyd have agreed to allow Perry to participate in both sports, expecting a lot from him.

“I felt he could help the basketball team. I think they’re impressed with his attitude and his athletic ability,” Price said. “I think the kid can play basketball and football. I don’t know if he’s going to be an NBA player, I think he’s got a better chance to be an NFL player. It’s not really going to



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Freshman forward Kevin Perry has found a spot on the basketball team after being recruited to play football by head coach Mike Price.

help him to play football and basketball. But he’s a heck of an athlete.”

As for Floyd, he does recognize Perry’s athletic ability, but has his demands as well.

“I think ultimately he can help us at some point. He missed so many post games, it’s been difficult to get him out here and try that stuff,” Floyd said.

“The disadvantage he had of not being in some preseason games—where we had a margin of error—is we could throw guys out there and get a look. But I told him to stay ready.”

As of now, Perry has played in only two games this season but he has

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Wolfram for second on UTEP's all-time scoring list. Then on Jan. 15, the Miners continued their recent dominance in C-USA when Stone broke the all-time assist record.

But what Miner fans have become accustomed to is the state-of-mind that an experienced coach has at the helm of a talented team. Head coach

Tim Floyd lost his first home game against Pacific on Nov. 12 and has not faced defeat in the Don Haskins Center since. And with the C-USA tournament in the same building and his defensive mentality intact, Floyd and his players know what his team is capable of. And as is commonly known, defense wins championships.

William Vega may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



BOB CORRAL / The Prospector

Senior guard Randy Culpepper had 14 points and three assists against SMU Feb. 12 at the Don Haskins Center.

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only giving the ball up four times in the final 20 minutes.

When the Miners caught up, they never looked back. With the game tied at 52, Randy Culpepper found an open Julian Stone from three-point range giving the Miners their first lead of the second-half. UTEP never trailed from that point finishing 8-8 from the free-throw line.

The Miners built a bit of separation for themselves in the C-USA standings, moving SMU to one-and-a-half games behind them. UTEP has now played at least one game less than the rest of their C-USA opponents leading up to a demanding schedule the rest of the way.

UTEP has only three games left on the road starting with the current fourth place C-USA team, Southern Miss Feb. 16. The Golden Eagles (18-

6, 7-4 C-USA) trail the Miners by only one game in the C-USA standings but Floyd talked of his return home to Hattiesburg, Mississippi during the Miner's practice Feb. 14.

"My father coached there and was there when they opened the building," Floyd said. "Some of my best memories are in that building but I've dealt with all those sentimental parts of it. It's always fun to go back home. That's my second home."

Floyd will also have a former assistant awaiting him in Southern Miss head coach Larry Eustachy. Floyd hired Eustachy as an assistant coach for his staff at Idaho from 1986-87 and was succeeded by Eustachy at Iowa State following Floyd's stint from 1994-98. The two will meet for the first time since 1991.

"He talks a lot of smack and trash and it won't be fun to get beat by him,"

Floyd said. "I'm very proud of him, respect him, like him and admire him. He's helped me too, he's evolved and we have as well so it will be just getting ready for another opponent."

Eustachy's team is lead by the second-highest scorer in C-USA with forward Gary Flowers averaging 19.9 points per game. As he has done all year, Julian Stone may be a key factor to shutting down his opponent's top scorer.

"Flowers is a tough player but we know we have to stop him to win, which will be a team effort," Stone said. "We want to shut down one player but its all five guys on the court that can play. My teammates need to do what they need to do and play tough defense."

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File Photo

Freshman tight end Kevin Perry catches a pass against Arkansas-Pine Bluff Sept. 4 at the Sun Bowl.

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been a vital part of the team helping prepare for opponents.

"Kevin Perry is a hard worker, you can tell he has basketball skills. He comes out here and you can't see the difference between him and anybody else," senior point guard Julian Stone said. "He helps us every day at practice. He will defi-

nately get the playing time that is coming up."

Whether it's playing under the lights at the Sun Bowl in the fall or running up and down the court in the winter and spring at the Don Haskins Center, Perry said no matter what chance he gets to play, he's proving it everyday.

Kristopher Rivera and Sal Guerrero may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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