

9-6-2012

The Prospector, September 6, 2012

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YOUNG VOTERS CHECK OUT

BY JASMINE AGUILERA

The Prospector

Although young adults are dealing with rising student debts and an 8.3 percent unemployment rate, many are opting not to vote this year.

A recent poll conducted by Gallup, a leading research organization, showed that the number of young voters ages 18 to 29 who will definitely vote this November is 56 percent. That is a 10 percent decline from the 66 percent of voters under the age of 30 who turned out in 2008, according to the Pew Research Center.

"I honestly don't think I will vote this year," said Paulina Ponce, sophomore education major. "I feel like everybody has some sort of corruption, like no one is out for the good of the country. I know that's pessimistic, but I just don't see any change coming out of this. I think most people who are deciding not to vote (are) just not hopeful about changes."

While some students are deciding to not to vote this year because they don't agree with either of the political candidates, there are others who simply aren't interested.

"I don't know, I just don't care and I don't think I'm registered yet," said Jorge Campos, freshman criminal justice major. "It's not that I think my vote doesn't count but I just think it's not real important to me. It's the least of my worries. I think that's how most young people feel, like I never hear about it."

Political science professor Irasema Coronado believes the reason young people haven't committed to voting this year has to do with indecisiveness.

"I think some young people are still trying to figure out if they are better off now than they were four years ago. A lot of people are asking that question," she said.

However, not all students are planning to be absent in Election Day

Nov. 6. Sylvia Contreras, junior pre-speech major does plan on voting because she feels it is her way of being heard.

"I believe that if you aren't happy with something you have to change it. I want change, I'm not happy with the way things are right now so I'll make my vote since that's the only way I can make a change," she said.

Some students believe that some of the younger population is opting out of voting because they are uninformed.

"I don't really think young people are interested in politics," said Karen Vegas, freshman graphic design major. "They're not really following the election. They just don't seem very informed."

According to a poll conducted on Sept. 3 by Generation Opportunity, an organization geared toward mobilizing young adults, 64 percent of young people ages 18-29 believe that the availability of more quality, full-time jobs upon graduation is more important than lower student loan interest rates.

Coronado said she believes both candidates are depending heavily on the youth vote, and said it is important that young people vote.

"It's critical that people participate in the democratic process," she said. "If we don't, we will have the few who run everything and that is not a good thing."

Contreras said she also feels younger people have an obligation to vote.

"I think people should go out and vote, those who don't are always the first to complain, so they should go and make a change," she said.

Andres Rodriguez contributed to this story.

Jasmine Aguilera and Andres Rodriguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

THE FACTS
OF
56% PEOPLE
AGES 18-29

PLAN TO VOTE
THAT IS 10% LESS THAN IN 2008

38% BELIEVE POLITICAL LEADERS REFLECT INTERESTS OF YOUNG AMERICANS

76% BELIEVE JOB SHORTAGE IS SHRINKING

PREFERRED JOBS
AFTER GRADUATION
RATHER THAN LOWER
STUDENT LOANS

64%

84% PLANNED TO DO
A LOT OF THINGS...



BUT
IT MAY DELAY OR WON'T
HAPPEN BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMY

Sources: Gallup Poll, Generation Opportunity

Campus life

Parking cost raises

BY ROBERT BROWN

The Prospector

With increases in tuition and the rising costs of textbooks, a little over 25,000 students, faculty and staff at UTEP also face increases in the cost for parking permits.

"I'm actually parked very far by the Sun Bowl in P8 and to pay that much for that parking area is a lot," said Aaron Collins, junior business major.

Since fall 2009, students have seen the increase in the cost of parking go from 5.41 to 18.75 percent, and faculty and staff have been affected with a 7.14 to 17.30 percent increase in the cost of parking. Parking authorities said students will see an increase in the cost for parking permits of \$5 for students for the 2013-2014 school year.

The funds raised from the permits are used to cover the costs associated with the parking department, UTEP officials said.

"The parking operation here at UTEP doesn't receive any state funding or university funding. (It) doesn't get any state appropriations, doesn't receive any tuition, doesn't receive any of the student fees," said Victor Pacheco, assistant vice president of business affairs. "(Parking) is considered an auxiliary operation."

The fees collected from permits are designed to cover 93 percent of the budget for the department every year. They cover such incidentals as utilities, employee wages and maintenance of the garages and parking lots.

"It could be great, but it needs to be cheaper. I mean it's expensive."

- Alan Castrejon, senior international business major.

Politics

Debates planned as candidates run for congressional seat



FILE PHOTOS

Congressional candidates Beto O'Rourke and Barbara Carrasco will partake in four public debates to campaign for El Pasoans vote.

BY REBECCA GUERRERO

The Prospector

Congressional representative hopefuls Beto O'Rourke and Barbara Carrasco have a mere 10 weeks to go before voters decide who will represent El Paso's interests in Washington D.C. With the election quickly approaching, both candidates will focus their campaigns on reaching as many voters as possible, and one principal way they will do this is through debates.

Both candidates have publicly announced their final four debates with the hope that it will increase voter participation by giving all District 16 constituents a chance to hear directly from the them.

The first debate is hosted by City Representative Emma Acosta on Sept. 15 at Burges High School. Next is the Spanish language Telemundo

debate on Oct. 4 at the El Paso Community Foundation Room. On Oct. 10, they will debate at the Central Business Association at the Camino Real Hotel. The last debate, titled WE (Fill in the Blank), will be Oct. 18 at Coronado High School Auditorium.

"The campaigns agenda is the same as it was in the primary," said Joey Marshall Torres, sophomore pre-business major and member of Beto O'Rourke's campaign staff. "We are focused on fund raising. But most of all, we are dedicated to meeting as many voters as we can. We are running the same bear-boned routine that has helped us reach the level that we are at today."

According to Barbara Carrasco, her team also continues to move forward and has recruited new people to, "man our phones and participate in

see DEBATES on page 4

see PARKING on page 4

Column

Every vote counts

BY JASMINE AGUILERA
The Prospector



“And believe it or not, when we were first married, our combined monthly student loan bills were actually higher than our mortgage. We were so young, so in love, and so in debt.”

That was a portion of First Lady Michelle Obama’s speech delivered Sept. 4 at the Democratic National Convention, a speech that moved many to tears.

With students facing an 8.3 percent unemployment rate after graduation—which only adds to the pressure of having to pay large amounts of student debt—you would think students would take this election season seriously.

But, according to a recent poll conducted by Gallup, a leading research organization, that’s not actually the case.

Turns out that only 56 percent of young adults between the ages of 18-29 have committed to voting this year. That is a 10 percent decrease from the number of young adults who turned out in 2008.

So, the point of this column is to try to convince you, the student, to care. If you already are involved politically, I’d like to extend much kudos to you. But I think you’ll agree with me when I say that a lot of UTEP students are

not interested in politics, even though the next four years may be very trying on us as young adults.

Students, it really doesn’t hurt to be more informed about what’s going on around you, in fact, it can only benefit you. Our system is extremely messed up and when we don’t express ourselves through—at the very least—a vote, nothing will change.

In a society that is surrounded 24/7 by media, remaining uninformed is a choice and there’s really no excuse for it.

Please, pick up a newspaper, watch the news, listen to the radio, attend some of the political lectures on campus, it doesn’t matter what you choose to do as long as you do something. Then be at a poll on Nov. 6 to vote.

It’s true that in the state of Texas the vote is pretty much already decided (Texas almost always votes Republican), but at the same time a single vote helps our community by getting politicians to note that they should care about our city, since they’d see that El Pasoans care.

That in turn brings more money to the city.

So if you won’t vote because you don’t agree with either candidate, or you simply don’t care about politics, at least consider that your vote counts to help our city improve itself.

Do it for El Paso.

Jasmine Aguilera may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



WHAT DO you think?

This week's poll question:
Did you enjoy Minerpalooza this year?

vote at WWW.UTEPPROSPECTOR.COM

we asked,
you answered

POLL RESULTS

Did you attend the UTEP vs. Oklahoma season opener?

Response	Percentage
NO	44%
YES	56%

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DEBATES from page 1

walking teams, sign placement teams, scheduling teams and others. We are also using social media to get our message out and we continue to attend neighborhood association meetings, luncheons, meet and greets and other social events as invited," she said.

Christopher Hinojos, senior political science major and University Democrats Treasurer, said, though there are several issues of importance that will be debated, he hopes one won't slide under the radar.

"There are plenty of issues going to be covered in the debates like the economy, jobs, education and health-care, among others," he said. "These are very important topics to this community but an issue that is of my personal interest and that I would love to see it discussed would be campaign finance reform. I would like to know what the candidates think about big money in politics and how they plan to solve it."

Barbara Carrasco plans to address issues such as unemployment and veteran's benefits in her debates and is confident that El Pasoans will come around to understand that it is not about party affiliation, but the needs of El Paso.

"My message to all voters, young and old, is to be informed in 2012," Carrasco said. "We must work together to put the unemployed of El Paso back (to) work and to expand the private sector so that UTEP graduates have an opportunity to find employment and aren't forced to go back to their parent's home. Their years of delayed sacrifice should be rewarded with employment, not anxiety about the labor force."

Despite Carrasco's claim to be the best choice for students, there are still many who put their trust in O'Rourke's plans to fight for progression and the creation of new jobs in El Paso.

"I am supporting Beto O'Rourke because he has proven to be a public servant with bold and new ideas. He is not in it for personal gain, but to help and improve El Paso," Hinojos said. "Jobs are the number one issue in El Paso; the unemployment rate in El Paso is at 10 percent, much higher than the state's unemployment rate—6.9 percent—and the national rate of 8.2 percent. Another issue is health care, 28 percent of El Pasoans remain uninsured. I believe Beto O'Rourke will work diligently in Washington to help this community best with these and other issues affecting El Paso."

O'Rourke said he would also improve young El Pasoans' situation.

"I'm talking with voters about the need to get the job done in D.C.—whether it's shortening bridge wait times, improving access to student loans or making sure that there are job opportunities for young people," O'Rourke said. "We're also signing up some great people who are volunteering on our campaign. It's an historic opportunity to work on a congressional campaign and we're getting some really bright, creative people who want to be part of this."

With a still divided populace, the scheduled debates may help more El Pasoans, particularly students, decide who they will support in the November election.

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

simplystated

Greek Life organizations disciplined for hazing

On Sept. 5 the office of Student Affairs released a statement about an incident of hazing on campus. The statement read as follows:

"In accordance with State law (Texas Education Code Section 51.936 and Sections 37.151-37.157), educational institutions shall distribute a list of organizations that have been disciplined for hazing or convicted for hazing on or off campus of the institution during the preceding three years.

At The University of Texas at El Paso the organizations, Kappa Sigma, Omega Delta Phi and Sigma Psi Eta have been disciplined for hazing and no organizations were convicted for hazing."

PARKING from page 1

are enough parking facilities to serve students. Per the university's master plan, between five to seven parking garages will exist on campus within the next 10 years.

Currently, UTEP's parking website lists over 9,800 parking spaces, 54 parking lots and two multiple level parking garages with four dedicated shuttle routes and 125 carpool parking spaces.

During fall 2012, the building of another parking garage will enter the planning stage. This facility will be located on the university's east side

near the Hilton Garden Hotel and will consist of approximately 700 spaces. Construction of this new parking structure is hoped to begin either in late fall or early spring and is expected to last between 12 to 18 months. The next parking structure is planned for the university's north side.

"It could be great, but it needs to be cheaper. I mean it's expensive," said Alan Castrejon, senior international business major. "I have friends who graduated like eight years ago when the parking was \$30 to \$50 for the whole year everywhere."

Although 93 percent of the fees are used to cover the department's budget, part of it is also designated for the safety of the students. This includes the parking department's plan to install security cameras within both parking garages this fall.

"I think that's a good idea. I've never been one to think that it was an invasion of privacy. I think that we live in a world that we have to be cognizant," said Bobby Gutierrez, senior lecturer in the communication department.

Robert Brown may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

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GIGANT3S

COME TO THE DON HASKINS



Special to The Prospector

BY MARIO SIMENTAL
The Prospector

UTEP Special Events will host a big night of Latin music as it prepares to welcome the GIGANT3S Tour 2012. The tour is made up of Marc Anthony, Chayanne and Marco Antonio Solís, who will perform at the Don Haskins Center on Sept. 9.

Jorge Vazquez, executive director of UTEP Special Events, said the event is expected to be a sell out show with an attendance of over 7,000 people. There is some hope of it coming in second place to the record set by the Enrique Iglesias and Pit Bull concert that drew 9,000 people to the Don Haskins in 2011.

UTEP Special Events has been preparing the accommodations for the event since April of this year. Tickets went on sale this May.

According to Vazquez, the event is not only aimed at the student population but to a wider age demographic that better represents the city.

"El Paso is a market that supports quality events regardless of the genre," Vazquez said. "We live in a unique market with smart ticket buyers who buy the top acts."

Valeria Padilla, sophomore digital media production major, said the event offers a unique opportunity to see three excellent singers under one roof.

Padilla said she has been waiting for her chance to see these artists perform, especially Chayanne.

"I grew up with his music. The rhythm and the enthusiasm that he puts in every lyric just inspired me," Padilla said. "That's the reason why I cannot pass this amazing opportunity."

Puerto Rican singer Chayanne is an international pop star who became famous with hits like "Torero," "Un Siglo Sin Ti" and "Tiempo de Vals." Chayanne is back on tour two years after releasing his last studio album "No Hay Imposibles" and his live album released this year "A Solas con Chayanne."

Luz Rubio, senior geophysics major, said she is excited about seeing Chayanne as well.

"I've always loved his music and the way he dances. His shows must be a great event because of the way he has driven his career," Rubio said. "He is never in any scandals, all you hear about him is focused on his talents and that is something to admire."

According to Vazquez, there are many variables that determine the success for an event, and a concert that offers three artists who can carry a very successful night on their own is a rare event.

"Special Events has been focusing to increase the quality of events coming to the university venues,"

Vazquez said. "We are working to have events that you expect to see in a Tier One institution."

Marc Anthony is a two-time Grammy-winning artist and the top selling musician in salsa with 12 million copies sold worldwide. The actor, producer and singer is back on tour after his last album "El Cantante," the soundtrack for the film of the same name released in 2007.

Marco Antonio Solís "El Buki" is widely considered one of the premier performers in his field as he has sold 80 million copies worldwide and is said to have written nearly 300 songs. His part in the GIGANT3S tour comes as a welcomed addition of Mexican heritage and culture.

"It's good to know that three different artists make a huge social and cultural impact," Padilla said. "College students have a kind of style and most of them grew up just like me with Marco Antonio Solís, Chayanne or Marc Anthony."

Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster and the University Ticket Center, prices range from \$40 to \$200. Event begins at 8 p.m.

For more information visit gigantestour.com.

Mario Simental may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.

Marco Antonio Solís' Hits:
"Basta Ya"
"Si No Te Hubieras Ido"
"Antes De Que Te Vayas"

Marc Anthony's Hits:
"Ahora Quién"
"You Sang To Me"
"Valió La Pena"

Chayanne's Hits:
"Tiempo De Vals"
"Fiesta En América"
"Un Siglo Sin Ti"

El Paso Opera showcases its 19th season

BY OSCAR GARZA
The Prospector

For years the El Paso Opera has enthralled audiences with theatrical dramas and outstanding vocals. This year, the company will do the same with the opening of their 19th season.

David Grabarkewitz, artistic and general director of the El Paso Opera, said he is excited about the program for this year's season.

"We have many good different operas including in March a grand production of 'The Barber of Seville' at the Abraham Chavez Theatre," Grabarkewitz said. "Coming up (Sept. 7) is 'Opera for All' which brings in three Metropolitan Opera stars to sing here."

Grabarkewitz said he hopes that audiences can appreciate both the hard work that goes into these productions and how varied the opera can be for creation.

"By the same token we have two other offerings that are more eclectic and fun in different ways," Grabarke-

witz said. "One would be 'The Birth of Opera at the El Paso Museum of Arts.' The El Paso Opera will also be performing the Johann Strauss' operetta, 'Die Fledermaus' in October. The comedy production includes waltzes.

According to Grabarkewitz, the opera is not only a venue for entertainment, it is also a cultural event that helps provide support for other theatrical offerings around the city like the UTEP Dinner Theatre or the El Paso Symphony.

"The El Paso Opera is the only group to feature classical vocal music," said Elisa Wilson, UTEP associate professor of voice and music theatre. "It is the primary vehicle through which my students in the music department get live exposure to great singers."

Students that attend Opera UTEP make up the official chorus for the El Paso Opera and are given the opportunity to appear as singers, and in the orchestra. They also have the chance to audition. Once they are in, they sign a contract with the El Paso Opera's Young Artist Program.

Students such as Emperatris Cabrera, junior voice performance major, has had the opportunity to sing with celebrities of the opera and has seen what it's like to sing at the professional level.

"Just the fact that they come and perform helps me personally," Cabrera said. "We may ask for a voice lesson, or a coaching or simply feedback and 99 percent (of the time) they are willing to help out."

Last March, Cabrera had the opportunity to play the role of Barbarina in El Paso Opera's production of "The Marriage of Figaro" at UTEP's Magoffin Auditorium

"I was on stage with top notch Metropolitan Opera singers who were very kind and helpful through the rehearsals and performances," Cabrera said. "I felt equal to them and not once did they undermine me for still being in college and being from Mexico."

El Paso Opera throughout the years has allowed local talent to be involved with professional talent in iconic pro-



AARON MONTES / The Prospector

The El Paso Opera is celebrating their 19th season this year.

ductions that feature a unique style of art, Cabrera said.


"Opera is more than a play with people yelling," Cabrera said. "It's far more striking than watching a movie drama on the big screen. You're talking about people, live, in front of you trying to touch you through music in a sensible, quasi-intimate way."

According to Grabarkewitz, the opera constantly reaches out to audiences that look for a production that displays numerous feelings of human emotion, including love, loss and compassion.

"I hope that they understand how joyous and exuberant opera is," Grabarkewitz said. "What a great human experience it can be to be in an opera house, hearing it and seeing it live in front of you."

For more information, visit epopera.org.

Oscar Garza may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.



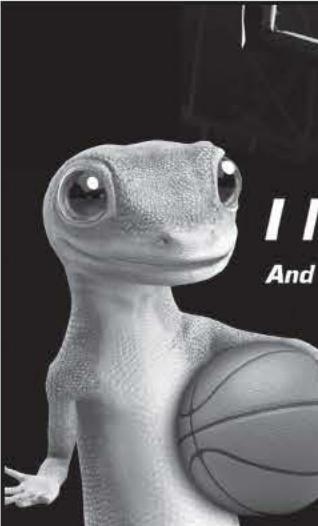
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— King Crossword —
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Solution time: 21 mins.

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L	A	V	A	N	E	O	M	O	P	E
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		A	R	A	B		H	E	R	
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A	G	O		P	E	R	I	L		C
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Answers to 09-04-12

BRAIN ZONE

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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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 the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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DALLAS COWBOYS 24, NEW YORK GIANTS 17: GIANTS BECOME FIRST DEFENDING SUPER BOWL CHAMPION SINCE THE '99 DENVER BRONCOS TO LOSE THEIR SEASON OPENER.

September 6, 2012

sports

editor
Daniel Ornelas, 747-7445

Football

In search of first victory across the Mississippi

Miners hoping to bounce back from home-opening loss to Oklahoma as they take on Ole Miss



AARON MONTES / The Prospector

Sophomore running back Nathan Jeffery rushed for 177 yards on 21 carries in the 24-7 home-opening loss to Oklahoma.

BY EDWIN DELGADO

The Prospector

The Miners will fly across the Mississippi river in search of their first win of the season after losing their home opener to Oklahoma. Their next opponent, the Ole Miss Rebels Sept. 8.

The team is confident about its ability to defeat the Rebels.

"They are going to be good, they're really athletic," senior center Eloy Atkinson said. "They have a lot of speed, SEC (South Eastern Conference) speed. But we're ready for them and looking forward to the challenge."

Ole Miss is coming off a 49-24 win at home against Football Championship Subdivision team Central Arkansas.

In their home opener against Central Arkansas, sophomore quarterback Bo Wallace, who transferred from East Mississippi Community College, completed 20 of his 24 passes for 247 yards and two touchdowns.

Wallace also ran for 82 yards and a touchdown in his debut with the Rebels.

"They're no-huddle, they're upbeat and up-tempo, they're faster up-tempo than Oklahoma, so we're going to have to work on that," UTEP head coach Mike Price said. "They run around with great enthusiasm on

defense. They have outstanding athletes. Their defensive line isn't huge, but they're tough and aggressive."

Rebels sophomore Donte Moncrief led the team with eight receptions for 104 yards and one touchdown.

In the home opener, running back Nathan Jeffery shined against Oklahoma, rushing for 177 yards on 21 attempts and returned a blocked punt 22 yards for the Miners' only score.

In contrast, the UTEP passing game struggled against Oklahoma gaining only 48 total yards.

"I don't know if playing them will help us out throwing the ball better," Price said.

see MISSISSIPPI on page 8



JOSHUA MCCOY/OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Ole Miss sophomore quarterback Bo Wallace produced 346 total yards of offense, including three touchdowns in his debut for the Rebels Sept. 1.

Women's Soccer

Miners to co-host Third-Annual Border Bash with NM State

BY AUDREY WESTCOTT

The Prospector

Coming home from the UC Riverside Invitational, the Miners were handed their second loss of the season in an overtime game against the Riverside Highlanders, with a final score of 3-2 on Sept. 2.

"We made a few mistakes this weekend, but we know what we have to improve on, and we know we can do it," sophomore midfielder Mackenzie German said. "We are just going to come into our next games with a positive attitude and do what we have to win. We are going to fix the little details that we need to fix and play with determination."

Shaking off the loss, the Miners are ready to get back in the game and back on the field.

Teaming up with UTEP's rival, New Mexico State, the Miners will be co-hosting the Third-Annual Border Bash with the Aggies Sept. 7 and 9.

This particular tournament was created by the teaming of UTEP's head coach, Kevin Cross and former NM State head coach, Michael Needham back in 2009, when the Aggies initiated their women's soccer program.

The Border Bash is a weekend of two games, where the Miners and

the Aggies face off against two other teams. This year both teams will play Weber State who is 0-4 and Sam Houston State who is 2-4.

The Miners are coming into the Border Bash with a 4-2 record, while NM State sits at a 1-2 record.

Having been successful in the previous years of this tournament, the Miners have what it takes to capture first place, but they understand that they must always be ready for anything and never underestimate the competition.

"For this tournament, we are training extremely hard, eliminating the mistakes and playing better as a team," Cross said. "We are looking for a win but everything has to go your way for that to happen. You have to be healthy, and play your very best soccer. There is potential to win but everything has to align perfectly and we have to play our very best."

With a competitive line up, the Miners are supporting their field skills with strategy, quick adjustments against their opponents and most importantly focus.

"We want to be playing our very best soccer this weekend, because this three game stretch are the last games



JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector

Sophomore midfielder Mackenzie German is one of nine returning starters for the Miners hoping to lead the team to a conference championship.

before conference," Cross said. "Our strategy is to put it all together, get all the details covered and play the best soccer we have played all preseason long. We need to stay focused for 90 minutes because we know if one player loses concentration, the ball can be in the back of the net. So as a team, all

coaches, all players, as a team need to have a 90-minute focus."

The Third-Annual Border Bash being their last games of the preseason, the Miners plan to take full advantage of the opportunity to make any corrections and prepare them for conference play.

"Any game helps," junior forward Jade Babcock said. "Basically, we are

going to look at all these preseason games like a practice for conference. These games show a lot so we are just working on the things we need to work on and trying to learn from the mistakes we are making now so they don't happen during conference."

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Football

Chasing the pros, one of many goals for Drew Thomas

BY FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

For senior corner back Drew Thomas, finding success in his final season with the Miners isn't just about individual achievements, it's also about leaving a lasting impression on his peers.

"I want to be considered one of the best corners in the nation. I want to show that my technique is really good and hopefully create turnovers for

this defense," Thomas said. "I am one of the older guys, I have been here for five years, so a lot of the younger guys feed off our senior energy. We are real vocal on the field and when we talk it gives everyone else confidence and we all play better."

The seniority in the secondary is one of the main keys to the success for the Miners defense in 2012, as every defensive back seems to be firing on all cylinders.

"All of the defensive backs are seniors so everybody is communicating and we are all on the same page. We all feel the same," senior safety De-Shawn Grayson said. "It's not just one of us, it's all four. Communication, team baby."

Despite the season opener loss to Oklahoma, the secondary believes that they made a statement not only to themselves, but the entire nation.

"It shows us that we can play with anybody in the nation and it gave us a lot of confidence," Thomas said. "We are not intimidated by anybody and we want to show that we are one of the most physical defenses in the country."

The Miners know that they must move past the loss, but carry over the positive throughout the season.

"We did a lot of positive things in that game and we need to get better and better every week," Grayson said. "We have to come out here and tackle a little better and communicate. Overall I think we did a good job and we picked up a lot from that game. We just got to move forward now."

Defensive backs coach Gabe Franklin was pleased with his secondary play following the Oklahoma game for particular reasons.

"The confidence we had. Guys played hard with good coverage and good eyes," Franklin said. "We didn't back down and that is the main thing that I liked about that game. We got a chance. We have a really good chance."

Franklin wants his secondary to be the leaders on the field.



JUSTIN STENE / The Prospector
Senior corner back Drew Thomas (10) was named to the 2012 Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll.

"He (Thomas) has played a lot of games for us so I expect him to be a senior leader. He has to show the young guys how to do it and do it right. He is playing at a very high level so I need him to make plays for me, that is his job," Franklin said. "He is a lead by example kind of kid and he is doing a great job at that. He has gotten a lot better at being more vocal as a leader. Getting guys riled up before the game and he is a quiet kid. He has done a good job during the game to get the guys ready to go."

Thomas feels that he is playing at the highest level since this will be his last season playing college football.

His aspiration is to make a name for himself this season to progress to the next level of play.

"The NFL (National Football League) is the goal. Hopefully I can convince an NFL team to draft me. I would love to play at that level," Thomas said.

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10

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MISSISSIPPI from page 7

"But I know that our receivers will play better than they did this last weekend. I know (senior quarterback) Nick (Lamaison) will play better."

Ole Miss has a record of 128-52-2 against current members of Conference-USA having won 12 of their last 15 non-conference games at home. Meanwhile the Miners have a 3-5 record on road openers under Price, two victories against NM State in 2005 and 2009 and a win over San Diego State in 2006. Overall, the Miners under Price are 6-9 in road games.

In order to have a chance to defeat Ole Miss, the players feel they have to avoid missing opportunities like it happened against the Sooners.

"We need to go back and watch the film of the game, to see what is working and what isn't," junior defensive lineman Marcus Bagley said. "We need to learn from this game (Oklahoma) to improve and beat Mississippi."

In his ninth year at the helm for the Miners, Price will face Ole Miss head coach Hugh Freeze, who is currently in his first season with the Rebels.

The Sept. 8 game marks the second meeting between the schools, with the first one being in the 1967 Sun Bowl, where the Miners defeated the Rebels 14-7. That was also UTEP's last bowl victory.

The game will be broadcast live on Fox Sports Network and ESPN3.com at 7 p.m. EST.

Notable injuries for the Miners include senior wide receiver Mike Edwards, who also serves as the starting punt returner and junior defensive back Adrian James, the back up punt returner.

"He (Edwards) got a concussion in the game and he has to pass his physical and mental tests before he can return to practice," Price said. "If that's the case, he's probably out for this week. That creates problems with our punt return...James sprained his ankle. He'll be out for at least two games."

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