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The Prospector, March 17, 2015

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

WWW.THEPROSPECTORDAILY.COM

VOL. 100, NO. 20

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

MARCH 17, 2015

CELEBRATING ENGINEERS

THE PROSPECTOR STAFF

The Prospector

TCM Day is celebrated each March in observance of St. Patrick's Day, and is the longest-running student tradition at UTEP.

The tradition began in 1920 when UTEP was known as the Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy, or TCM, and was an annual rite of passage to initiate new engineers and geologists into the Order of St. Patrick—the patron saint of engineers.

Students, faculty and staff from all disciplines are invited to participate in the seven parts of TCM Day, including the Team Mining Challenge.

The day will begin with participant sign-in at 7:30 a.m. at Magoffin Auditorium as well as the Coming of St. Pat.

A simulated dynamite blast will also take place at the Sun Bowl Parking Garage, where participants will also learn songs with help from Fort Bliss drill sergeants. Miners

MARCH 17, 2015

PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
LORAIN AMBROCIO, 747-7477

College students be weary: social media to blame for too many grammar errors

BY JOSE SOTO
SHFWire Intern



College students be weary: social media to blame for too many grammar errors
By Jose Soto
SHFWire Intern

While here in Washington, D.C. for an internship, I was fortunate enough to attend the College Media Association Conference in New York City. It is aimed toward multimedia journalists, reporters, photographers and all types of writers and editors in between.

As a journalist, the conference helped me mold my niche and figure out a more conceptualized route of how I would like to build my career. As a college student, it was eye-opening, but it shouldn't have been.

Writing is inevitable. It's everywhere. From note-taking and writing essays to simply texting our friends, we seem to always be writing. What isn't inevitable, it seems, is writing adequately. Somewhere between high school graduation and our most recent university final, we seem to have forgotten the essential tools of writing, writing correctly.

I went to a workshop titled "How to Improve your writing instantly." I won't bore you with all the journalistic hogwash, but I thought one thing did apply to all of us college students: know exactly what you are saying.

The speaker, Paige Clancy, made great emphasis on punctuation and grammar. Yes, these aspects of writing might seem rudimentary, but they are often forgotten. Take this for instance: writing 'let's eat grandma' is not the same as 'let's eat, grandma.' A simple comma and the sentence takes on a whole different meaning.

As college students, this should be obvious. So why was she addressing it as a writing issue?

"They're in college, they're supposed to know the difference. It's their duty," Clancy said.

She pointed out statistical proofs that college students are among the worst at grammar and punctuation errors. But why? At the top of the blaming ladder is none other than our beloved friend, social media.

Social media has deprived us all of actual reading, which ultimately ties in with actual writing. There doesn't seem to be an embedded set of rules when it comes to constructing sentences in media, such as Instagram or Facebook. Everyone will get what you intend to say, but that is a huge fallacy. This is making us into lousy writers.

We think the way we see things on-screen is acceptable on paper, too. Through social media, we seem to be the generation that is constantly communicating. However, how efficient and successfully we communicate is an entirely different story.

I should point out that as a journalist, writing is supposed to be, at least should be, our expertise. By no means am I the best writer, but I do want my writing to be taken seriously. That is why I attended the workshop.

You, too, should want to be taken seriously as college writers. It's what we do every single day when we come to school. Imagine how much more you'll be obtaining from your education if you focus on improving your writing skills. You would read things more accurately, and in return, know the material better. Plus, I'm sure none of us want our professors to perceive us as inept, illiterate idiots.

My challenge for all of you is to focus a little bit more on your writing techniques. Take a tutorial, read more, have someone edit your notes and essays. And when you are communicating through text or social media, take grammar and punctuation into consideration. It'll spill over into your writing.

It's your education and you're in charge. You're thank yourself one day.

Jose Soto may be reached at josa.soto@scripps.com.



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THE PROSPECTOR

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First annual Yama Fest takes place on campus



BEN WOOLRIDGE / THE PROSPECTOR

Yama Fest will take place Saturday, March 14, in the Union East building at the Tomas Rivera Conference Center.

BY BEN WOOLRIDGE
The Prospector

Yama Fest held its first annual convention Saturday, March 14, in the Tomás Rivera Conference Center in the Union East Building to welcome fans of Japanese animation and cosplay enthusiasts. It was sponsored by the Anime Appreciation Society of El Paso.

S. David Ramirez, Yama Fest coordinator, said that the event represents a return to anime conventions that used to be held on UTEP's campus.

"Since the El Paso Anime Con, there hasn't been an Anime convention here at UTEP for about four or five years," Ramirez said.

Ramirez said Yama Fest also allows for anime fans in New Mexico and those across the border to take part in the convention at UTEP.

"There's a huge anime fan base in El Paso, in Las Cruces, in Juárez," Ramirez said. "We're really just trying to bring people together."

The convention scheduled events that included karaoke, a cosplay contest, gaming competitions, anime drawing fundamentals, viewing popular anime television series and an autograph session with Christopher Smith, a popular anime voice actor.

About a dozen vendors displayed their merchandise from Pokémon backpacks, stuffed animals, vintage comic books, anime artwork to anime

costumes and suits of armor hoping to pique the interest of passersby.

"We are selling our products that we make from the Anime club," said Raul Molina, senior creative writing major, who was a vendor at the convention and a member of the Anime Appreciation Society of El Paso. "They're key chains, drawings, mostly student art that we make."

Stephanie Mendez, Yama Fest staffer, said that the convention is important because there are people who like different things like anime or comic books and video games to get together to share with others something they love.

The convention also served a dual purpose by providing entertainment

and merchandise to sell to the crowds of costumed participants of all ages, and taking two dollars off the ticket price for any two canned goods given in support of El Pasoans Fighting Hunger, a local food bank that partnered with Yama Fest.

"They actually serve a hundred and thirteen different local food pantries and banks throughout the city of the El Paso metroplex," Ramirez said.

Ramirez said the appeal of anime is due to its inclusiveness and because it views life from a unique point of view.

"I think anime is really popular because it has a different perspective on life," Ramirez said. "In Anime, even the geeky person or the LGBT person, or maybe the non-prettiest girl, or the not handsomest man, or not the smartest person can be successful with hard work."

Ben Woolridge may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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5K run to benefit brain injury survivors

BY JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

The El Paso Brain Injury Support Group will be having their fourth annual 5K walk and run on March 21, at Ascarate Park.

The run will begin at 8 a.m. with packet pickup taking place between 7 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. All proceeds will benefit The El Paso Brain Injury Support Group.

The El Paso Brain Injury Support Group was founded in 2013, with the goal of providing the community with the resources, education and family support needed when someone encounters a life-changing experience, such as a severe brain injury.

Every member in the support group has a survivor story. The group allows them to come together to share their stories and heal together as a second family.

The El Paso Brain Injury Support Group can be joined free of charge, and meets inside Mentis Neuro Rehabilitation, which is inside the Sun-Ridge Assisted Living Home at 1831 Murchison Dr. every month. Anyone who has survived a brain injury or was affected by someone who suffered a brain injury is welcome to join.

Leo Mendoza, member of The El Paso Brain Injury Support Group, said being a part of a group has helped him to a great extent, and events like these help keep the group afloat.

“Last year we had an extra 40 people show up to the race, so this year we are hoping for a turnout of 200 people,” Mendoza said. “This way we could raise between \$500 and \$800.”

Mendoza has been a member of the support group for five years. The group has helped him cope with his injury, meet people he can relate to and form a support system unique to his own situation.

“We have a saying as a group—you don’t know what we’ve been through until you’ve walked a 100 miles in our shoes,” Mendoza said. “If I had a dollar for everyone I could help prevent brain injury, I’d be poor. I can’t prevent accidents, I can only give advice and support.”

Michelle Guterrez, clinical assistant professor of physical therapy, said the amount of trauma associated with and the type of recovery for brain injuries depends on the accident or cause.

“Depending on the extent and location of the injury, brain injury impairments vary greatly,” Guterrez said.

The different degrees of injury also call for different recovery process lengths.

“Usually the most rapid recovery will occur within the first six months

after the injury, but a person with a brain injury will continue to show recovery for two years,” Guterrez said. “The brain is an amazing, dynamic organ that can adapt and change with time, so most people who have a brain injury will have continued recovery for years after the injury; even two years post-injury most people will continue to show decline in disability.”

The types of physical therapy required during the healing process vary depending on the injury. Some of the most common aspects physical therapy addresses include balance, coordination, weakness, spasticity and dizziness.

“Working with an interdisciplinary rehabilitation team (including the person with acquired brain injury, a physiatrist, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech/language pathologists, case managers, neuropsychologists) will focus on the optimal recovery of the individual,” Guterrez said.

Guterrez also said joining support groups, like The El Paso Brain Injury Support Group, can be very valuable to people suffering from brain injuries and their families as well.

“Because a brain injury is an invisible disorder, people cannot always see the disability,” Guterrez said. “It causes not only physical impairments, but also cognitive impairments such as memory, concentration and mood, and only an individual and a family who lives with brain injury can understand how brain injury affects them.”

There is a \$20 registration fee, and all vehicles parking at Ascarate Park will need to pay a \$2 parking fee. The first 200 registrants will receive a free t-shirt.

To register visit www.raceadventuresunlimited.com. The run can be found under the events tab.

For more information about The El Paso Brain Injury Support Group, call 915-351-4441 or like their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TheElPasoBrainInjurySupportGroup.

Julia Hettiger may be reached at theprospector@daily.com.

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TCM from page 1

will then whitewash the “M” on the mountain off Sun Bowl Drive, participate in a Team Mining Challenge and kiss the Blarney Stone in front of the Engineering and Sciences Complex.

TCM CALENDAR

7:30 – 11:30 A.M.

Registration and Canned Food Drive, Magoffin Auditorium

You can pre-register online and pay \$5 per person, \$7 on day of event.

Wear clothes that you won’t mind getting dirty, and working boots are highly recommended.

8 – 8:20 A.M.

The Coming of St. Pat and History, Magoffin Auditorium.

8:30 – 8:45 A.M.

Blasting of Dynamite, Sun Bowl Parking Garage.

8:45 – 9:45 A.M.

Learning of Songs, Sun Bowl Parking Garage.

10:05 – 11:15 A.M.

Whitewashing the “M” – Off Sun Bowl Drive

11:30 A.M. – 1:15 P.M.

Team Mining Challenge– starts at Magoffin Auditorium and runs through campus.

11:45 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

The Long Green Line and Kissing the Blarney Stone.

Engineering and Sciences Complex, Hawthorne Street.

NOON – 2 P.M.

St. Pat’s Feast and Alpha Phi Omega awards.

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Texas same-sex couples continue to face challenges for marriage equality

BY ALONSO MORENO
The Prospector

After many in Texas celebrated the first same-sex marriage last month, couples must continue to wait as the Texas Supreme Court issued an emergency order blocking same-sex couples from obtaining any further marriage licenses.

Last February, Sarah Goodfriend and Suzanne Bryant became the first same-sex couple to be granted a marriage license as Judge David Wahlberg ordered Travis County Clerk Dana Debeauvoir to issue the license on grounds that the couple is medically fragile, because Goodfriend had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

Following the decision, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton appealed to the state Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus in order to void the marriage.

In a statement released by Paxton, he condemned the actions of the Travis County judges, pointing out that they do not withstand the scrutiny of the law and that their actions could lead the state into chaos.

“The law of Texas has not changed, and will not change due to the whims of any individual judge or county clerk operating on their own capacity anywhere in Texas,” Paxton said.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott also released a statement, in which he emphasized that the state constitution defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman. He also said that he hoped that the Texas constitution would be upheld and law would be maintained as well.

“Although the union between the women can be celebrated, we have to take a step back and reevaluate how much progress has been made,” said Enrique Portugal, senior Spanish major. “Given the history of the state, I am not surprised with the events that followed the marriage, but this could be a step in the right direction even if it has encountered resistance.”

Although Texans voted in 2005 to ban same-sex marriage, the decision has been highly criticized and its constitutionality has also been called into question at a federal level.

In response to this action on March 5, Texas Independence Day, Texas Senator José Rodríguez, D-El Paso, along with co-authors Senators Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, Sylvia Garcia, D-Houston, Kirk Watson, D-Austin, and John Whitmire, D-Houston, introduced Senate Bill 856, a state-wide anti-discrimination bill that would prohibit discrimination in the areas of employment, public accommodation, housing and state contracting based upon sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

“Fair treatment for workers, families, and people who visit our state—including gay and transgender people—is a crucial factor in the ongoing strength of the Texas brand,” Rodríguez said in a statement. “

Representative Mary Gonzalez also opposed the actions by the Texas Supreme Court, and stated that it’s only a matter of time until equality reaches the state.

“The actions of the Texas Supreme Court and attorney general are ultimately incapable of stopping progress in our state,” Gonzalez said. “Attitudes in Texas have changed in the past decade, and the work we have done in our communities to fight discrimination and oppression has brought us closer to equality for all Texans. It’s an ongoing struggle, but the day for marriage equality is coming, regardless of any court order.”

Rodríguez, along with Sen. Juan Hinojosa, also filed Senate Joint Resolution 13, which proposes a constitu-

tional amendment that would repeal the current same-sex marriage ban in the Texas Constitution.

Although the issue has predominantly been fought at the state level, U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia ruled in February of last year that the state ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. He said that “without a rational relation to a legitimate governmental purpose, state-imposed inequality can find no refuge in our U.S. constitution.”

Along with his ruling, Garcia also issued a stay on his order, which was addressed at a January hearing of this year by a three-judge panel of the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, who is expected to rule on the matter.

“An inclusive Texas is crucial to recruiting and retaining talent, attracting entrepreneurs and company relocations, and maintaining a strong travel and tourism industry,” Rodriguez said. “Moreover, discrimination of any kind runs counter to the values of opportunity, personal faith, and freedom from discrimination that all Texans hold dear.”

Alonso Moreno may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.



Texas approved its first same-sex marriage in February, but it was voided soon after.

ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR



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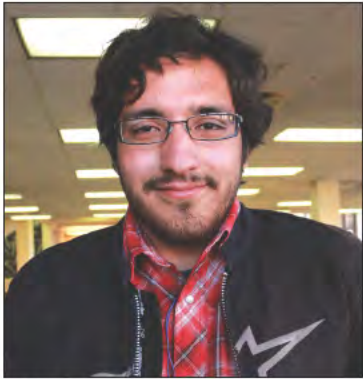
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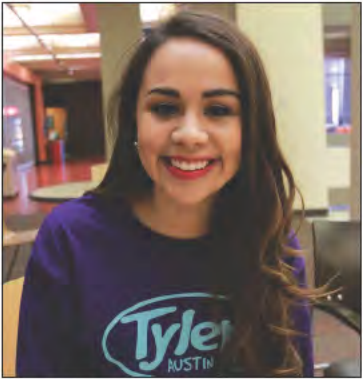
ANDRES MARTINEZ, MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR



ALFREDO SAUCEDO
Junior mechanical engineering major
“TCM is a celebration for engineering students where they paint the ‘M,’ walk underneath the Engineering Building and paint themselves green.”



ANGEL ARANDE
Senior mathematics major
“I know nothing about TCM because I am from the math department.”



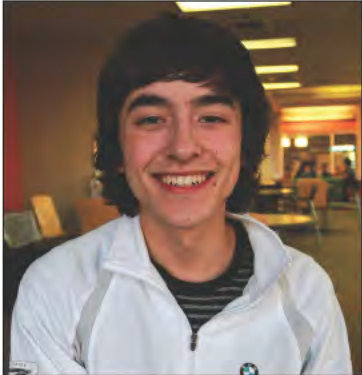
GISSEL RAMIREZ
Sophomore speech pathology major
“I know that after they accomplish all the events, they get a green card that says they’ve completed the tradition.”



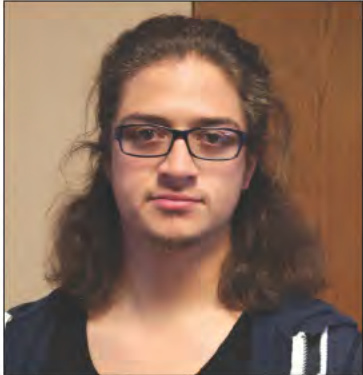
JAIME CRUZ.
Senior. engineering. major
“I know that it’s the oldest tradition at UTEP.”



JAZMIN RAMIREZ
Junior nursing major
“I know that at the end of the week the engineers go to the mountain and white-wash the ‘M’ again.”



JOSE GUTIERREZ
Freshman electrical engineering major
“I have to go and repaint the ‘M’ on the mountain because the school was once just an engineering school.”



ALEX PEREZ
Junior. pre-pharmacy major
“Yes I know about TCM. I think it’s a cool event to have on campus for the student body.”



BIANCA MARTINEZ
Junior digital media advertising major
“I just know that it’s an event thats held here at UTEP and that it has to do with UTEP’s history.”



CHEYANNE LOZANO
Senior history major
“I know its based on engineering and I think its a good thing to keep the tradition alive.”



JENNIFER VALENZUELA
Junior education major
“I really haven’t heard about it.”

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GRAND OPENING FALL 2015

MARCH 17, 2015

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
KIMBERLY VALLE, 747-7477

UTEP students show your talent

BY JESUS LOPEZ

The Prospector

The Student Government Association and the Office of Student Life will host the auditions for this year's talent show from 5 – 9 p.m. March 24, to March 26, at the Union East building.

All students interested in auditioning must be UTEP students. For group performances, each member must be enrolled at UTEP in order to participate. The number of participants for group performances are limited to 10 members. Multiple auditions will not be allowed for each member.

Participants must have a grade point average of 2.25 or above to be eligible to audition.

Hector Soltero, executive assistant of SGA and senior organizational corporate communication major, said SGA organized the first talent show two years ago.

"It is our way to reach out to the Fox Fine Arts, because we feel like sometimes they are left out of the university's activities and forced to reach out outside of the university," Soltero said. "We want students to express their talents."

The three best performances will receive cash prizes of \$1,000 for first place, \$750 for second place, and \$500 for third place. The three winners will also be asked to perform at campus events.

Soltero said student performances would be judged based on four categories—creativity, stage presence, entertainment value and performance execution.

The names of the judges of both the auditions and the actual competition will not be announced until the day of the events. Four judges will participate in the audition process while four other judges will be chosen the day of the talent show.

All auditions have a limit of seven minutes. Any talent is accepted for auditions, but the use of drugs, alcohol or any promotion of illegal activity is prohibited. Nudity, obscenity or vulgarity will be considered disrespectful and will result in immediate disqualification of the performance. Safety hazards will not be allowed on stage such as smoke, fire or knives.

Justin Morrison, freshman civil engineering major, said he wishes to see many bands perform at the talent show.

"I also would like to see something completely different that blows my mind," Morrison said. "I would be incredibly pleased with that, I expect to be surprised."

Andrea Villela, freshman mechanical engineering major, said she might consider participating in this talent show along with her peers.

"I am thinking about dancing for the show and I have heard of many bands that want in," Villela said. "The university really lacks artistic events and I am excited about this particular one. This is a very interesting event and something that I would really like to be a part of."

Soltero said SGA plans to make the talent show a yearly event.

"It all depends on each administration," Soltero said. "That is why we hope to have a big turnout and many entries for auditions."

All students are encouraged to participate and to fill out an official entry form, which can be found at the SGA office or at the Office of Student Life, Union West, room 102, and the

Student Engagement and Leadership Center, Union West, room 106

The talent show will be held on April 11 at Magoffin Auditorium. The audience at the show will be asked to vote for the top three performances, and will account for 25 percent of the participants' overall score.

For more information on the talent show and the auditions, visit the SGA

office at Union East, room 304, or call

915-747-5584.

Jesus Lopez may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



TFILEPHOTO

Auditions for the talent show will take place March 24, to March 26, in the Union East Building.

New craft beer gives a borderland taste

BY VALERIE HERRERA

The Prospector

Sun Brewing Company announced the release of its latest creation, Chamoy Ale. The brewery opened in Canutillo in July 2014 and has been busy crafting borderland cuisine-inspired beers.

The brewery introduced the new chamoy ale, along with other craft beers, on Feb. 28, at Brew at the Zoo.

David Slocum, founder and CEO of Sun Brewing Company, said the beer has been doing so well that it already sold out at his main headquarters, but is still available to purchase or taste at Tosca Pizzeria, located at 4017 N. Mesa, however, it will not last long.

"Since we have only been open for eight months, we are limited on our capabilities and can have up to three beers on tap at once," Slocum said.

As the bewery expands, there are plans to eventually carry all popular beers, such as the Chamoy Ale, Sun Mole Ale, Sun Tamale Top Ale and Meados De Alien Ale, along with other favorites year round.

"As of right now we can think of nothing better than creating original, unique and seasonal craft beers that have never been done before," Slocum said. "We want to create something new for everyone to enjoy."

Aged properly in a Belgian taster, Chamoy Ale carries aromas of fruit pulp, usually apricot and a mixture of lime, spices and chilis.

"The taste is sweet with a bit of tartness and slight hints of chili similar

to our previously brewed Sun Tamarindo Ale," Slocum said.

Originating from Mexico, chamoy is known as a supercharged Mexican sweet and sour condiment seasoned with hot chilis and a tart hit of lime or vinegar that is usually poured over fruit raspas, a snow cone-like ice cream, and in micheladas (a Mexican alcoholic beverage).

Enrique Avalos, junior graphic design major, said he has yet to try the new Chamoy Ale, but believes it will have a similar taste as red beer.

"Red beers are pretty trendy right now, so I think this beer will do great because many restaurants like to make red beers with chamoy inside them," Avalos said. "I just wondering why hadn't anybody thought of this sooner."

Slocum became inspired to brew a Chamoy Ale along with other previously released IPAs (India Pale Ales) and ales because of his love for Mexican cuisine and its common popularity within the local community.

While living in Mexico for some time, Slocum was able to study the Mexican cuisine and utilize this knowledge into his authentic brewing recipes.

According to Sun Brewing Company, they are one of the first authentic craft breweries in El Paso County that crafts original seasonal beers for people who love trying new things.

Major ingredients used in the fermenting process include seasonal organic produce and spices that come from local farmer's markets, which



HUGO BRITO / THE PROSPECTOR

Server Cristina Tejada serves chamoy ale at Cantina Malolam, located at 4935 N Mesa St.

gives the beers a unique regional flavor.

"All my recipes are original and authentic, crafted for a borderland flavor," Slocum said. "No extract brewing or contract brewing is used during the brewing process and is 100 percent all-grain brewing."

Slocum said Sun Brewing Company is a brewery with the intent to transform and revolutionize the beer-crafting platform and distribute them to local El Paso establishments where they have never been before.

Baltazar Santaella, graduate engineering major, said he has always been a fan of chamoy and hopes the Chamoy Ale will stay around longer.

"All the beers they create are out of the ordinary, which is why I think they are so popular," Santaella said. "I would like to see their beers become available year round and be distributed in other areas of the city as well."

Slocum said distribution agreements to other locations are in the works and hopes his ground-break-

ing brews will attract tourists to the region.

"Why not have something that is distinctively ours and make it freely available to anyone?" Slocum said. "It's not about the money, but about the craft."

Sun Brewing Company is located at 101 La Union, in Canutillo, Texas, and is open from 4 to 9 p.m. during the week.

Valerie Herrera may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

Alternative ways for students to stay in shape

JULIA HETTIGER
The Prospector

There are many nontraditional ways to exercise, such as rock climbing and simulated surfing. Sessions Climbing is a rock-climbing fitness center and facility that provides rock-climbing instructions and guides, and the company is currently working on opening an indoor rock-climbing facility.

Albert Alvarez, an employee at Sessions Climbing, said he rock climbs as often as he can.

"I don't even go to the gym because I climb four to five times a week," Al-

varez said. "It's fun and it helps me push my physical and mental limits."

Dylan Flugee, junior mechanical engineering major, said he rock climbs twice a week at an indoor facility.

"It's great for your hands," Flugee said. "The wall looks like a legit rock wall and it's hard, but once you're up there, you're up there."

Rock climbing requires a full body workout and can help develop cognitive thinking and problem solving.

"It helps develop your abdomen and leg muscles, as well as your thinking skills," Alvarez said. "There's no manual when you are rock climbing

in the real world, and you have to find the best way to position yourself."

Over time, rock climbing can help strengthen the core and back and shoulder muscles as the climbing progresses.

Aaron Ibarra, junior pre-pharmacy major, said rock climbing can be good for your health because it requires upper and lower body strength.

"It exercises your brain because you have to coordinate where you are going to go next and how you are going to get there," Ibarra said.

Another unique way to get fit is through simulated surfing. Surf-In Fit El Paso is a workout studio inspired by surfing that is dedicated to helping its patrons get in shape.

The studio features multiple surfboards that simulate surfing on a variety of waves. Surfing requires the use of multiple muscles.

"In simulated surfing, I would say we are utilizing our leg muscles a lot more," said Erika Williams, employee at Surf-In Fit. "Your quads and glutes are the most engaged during a surf-in fit workout."

Regular surfing requires the arm and shoulder muscles, for when paddling out from shore, the leg muscles for standing and maneuvering the board and the abdominal muscles for balance. Simulated surfing requires the use of your shoulder, back and abdominal muscles.

"After a couple of workouts you can already notice a definition in the shoulder area," Williams said. "Of course we transition muscles with the type of workout, but these are the main muscles it targets."

Surf-In Fit is located at 1239 Lafayette. They are open Monday through Friday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m.-10 a.m. For more information, call 479-7982.



SERGIO ZAMORA/ THE PROSPECTOR
Student works out at the UTEP student recreation center.

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Sessions Climbing provides training, information and guides for anyone interested in rock climbing. All guides are certified by the American Mountain Guides Association. Sessions Climbing is located at 209 Noble St. For more information, call 915-443-0340 or visit their Facebook page.

Julia Hettiger can be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

Esperanza Rising arrives at the wise family theater

BY JESUS LOPEZ
The Prospector

"Esperanza Rising" will be showcased at the Wise Family Theatre beginning on March. 20, through March 29.

The play is set in post-revolutionary Mexico during the time of the Great Depression, and later in California.

The story follows the life of Esperanza, a young girl who was once a member of a wealthy family who is forced to cross the U.S.-Mexico border to work at a farm in order to survive during the Great Depression.

Ileana Breceda, freshman psychology major, said she's heard about this play before and she is planning to attend.

"Most people who hear about this play think 'oh this is just another story of a poor Mexican crossing the border,' but they are biased and casting prejudice upon a very insightful story," Breceda said. "Instead, the protagonist of the play, accompanied only by her mother, flees her home country in order to protect herself from the madman who killed his father."

The play has won many awards and has been the object of praise from many critics.

David Olivas, junior chemistry major, said the play was well chosen.

"It's a very serious play that deals with a recognized subject, yet has an extra twist that lets the audience understand characters that in reality are rejected," Olivas said.

Rebecca Rivas, assistant professor of theatre and dance and director of the play, said she has had an amazing time with the play due to the numerous cast members and their talents.

"In this play there is a total of 20 people participating," Rivas said. "We are currently running through the play, and as I watch it take form I couldn't be more grateful for having all these people working with me."

Rivas said that her nephew introduced her to the book and she found the story compelling. She then researched to find out if any play of the book had been produced.

"Last year when our department was looking to add a show for young audiences into the season 'Esperanza' was an obvious choice," Rivas said. "Not only because its subject matter is relevant to our area, our community and to the time we live in, but because it's a lovely story about finding home."

A variety of music will be included during the performances, but the play will not be a musical. The story will stay true to the original script, making few changes to accommodate the venue.

"It's been an honor and a blast and I hope everyone comes out to see it," Rivas said.

The performance is open to the general public. The Wise Family Theatre is located at the Fox Fine Arts Center on the second floor. Parking will be available at the Sun Bowl Parking Garage on Sun Bowl Drive.

For more information, visit ticketmaster.com or the UTEP Ticket Center.

Jesus Lopez may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

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MARCH 17, 2015

SPORTS

EDITOR
LUIS GONZALEZ, 747-7477

Miners squeak into post season, make NIT

BY LUIS GONZALEZ

The Prospector

The UTEP men's basketball season is not over, not yet. After a disappointing semifinal loss at the Conference USA Tournament at the hands of Middle Tennessee, the Miners will play in the National Invitational Tournament. UTEP will travel to Murray, Ky., where they will face Murray State on Tuesday night for the first round of the NIT.

"It's a nice tribute to our players and the fact they did some good things this year," UTEP head coach Tim Floyd said. "We're glad that we have an opportunity to watch our seniors play another game."

The Miners went into the conference tournament in search of a berth in the NCAA Tournament, which will crown the national champion later this month. In order to be among the 68 teams that participate in the big dance, UTEP had but one choice, win it all in Alabama.

A good start to the conference tournament with a comfortable win over Florida International fueled the hope of UTEP's return to the NCAA Tournament.

The Miners shot lights out against the Golden Panthers en route to an 83-71 victory.

In the semifinals of the tournament, UTEP faced a Middle Tennessee team that was coming off a surprising upset win over one of the favorites in Old Dominion. Floyd's squad got off to a fast start and a 21-11 lead, and then all the shots that were falling the previous morning didn't on Friday afternoon.

"We ran into a scrappy group, who had beaten Old Dominion and was playing with a lot of confidence," Floyd said Saturday. "They had a kid get hot who really hadn't been a factor this season. I'm sure we would like to have some things back."

Middle Tennessee's D.J. Jones scored 15 of his 17 points during the final 10 minutes of the contest and propelled the Blue Raiders to a second-consecutive upset win, 53-50.

The 5-foot-10 freshman guard had barely been a factor for Middle Tennessee all season long and averaged less than five points per game coming into the semifinal clash with the

“

We're glad that we have an opportunity to watch our seniors play another game

”

- Tim Floyd,
UTEP basketball
head coach

Miners.

Jones' offensive explosion was unexpected to say the least, but the fact that UTEP just could not find the basket did not help the Miner cause either. After scoring 21 and getting out to a double-digit lead within the first 10 minutes of play, UTEP scored just four more points in the final 10 of the first half and somehow still led 25-20.

Still with the lead, the Miners shot just 39.1 percent from the field, including 20 percent from beyond the arc. Seniors Julian Washburn and Cedric Land were the only players to score in double figures—12 and 14, respectively. It was just the second time all season in which UTEP scored 50 or less points in a game.

"Give Middle Tennessee credit," Floyd said. "They did a very nice job, I thought, of playing within themselves when they were down for most

of the game. Their zone was effective in terms of shortening the game offensively. It forced us to have to work a little harder."

The semifinal defeat crushed the Miner's NCAA Tournament dreams and a Louisiana Tech loss later in the day put UTEP's participation in any kind of post-season tournament in grave danger.

Fortunately for UTEP, the Miners were among the 32 teams announced Sunday night, who were invited and will participate in college basketball's second best post-season tournament.

Although there is no national championship at stake, the 78-year-old tournament provides an opportunity for younger players to get experience. The departing seniors get to prolong their career and the schools get exposure.

The first three rounds of the tournament will be hosted by the team with the higher seed. The semifinals and championship game will take place at Madison Square Garden.

The most recent memory of UTEP's participation in the NIT was a lackluster 57-69 loss at New Mexico.

"We were coming off a very disappointing loss, one in which we led by 12 with six minutes to go against Memphis [in the Conference USA championship game]," Floyd said. "I think our guys were really deflated at that point."

The Miners have participated in the NIT a total of 10 times. Their last win came in 2006 at home, but have not won a game in this tournament on the road since 1980. UTEP won its first NIT road game at Wichita State, and has lost seven straight since then.

Breaking this negative road streak will not be an easy task against a Murray State team that has 27 wins this season to only five losses. The Racers, who many predicted would be playing in the NCAA Tournament, dominated the Ohio Valley Conference, winning all 16 games they played this year before losing in the conference championship game to Belmont, 88-87. The loss ended a 25-game winning streak for Murray State.



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP men's basketball will play at Murray State at 7 p.m. on Tuesday in the opening round of the NIT. The game will be on ESPN2.

At home at the 8,602-seat CFSB Center, the Racers went an impressive 14-1, losing only to Houston in their second game of the season.

"We haven't gotten to look at Murray State a great deal yet," Floyd said. "I'm aware they won 25 straight games and that tells me they probably should be in the NCAA Tournament."

The Racers are impressive on paper. They are inside the top-25 teams in the nation when it comes to scoring, winning percentage and field goal percentage. Murray State averages 79.1 points per game—10th in the nation— while shooting 48.4 percent from the field—16th in the nation.

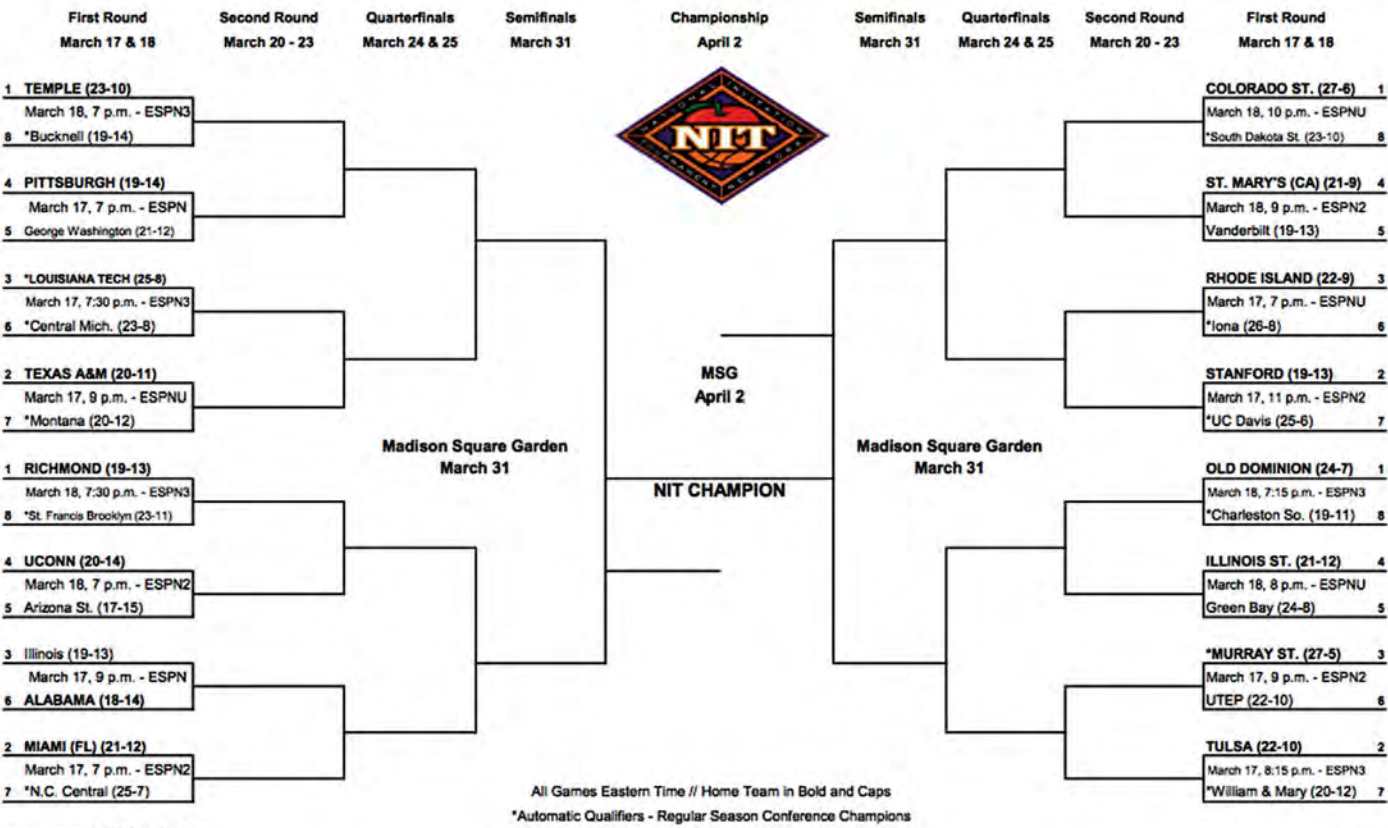
They are led by sophomore guard Cameron Payne, who ranks 10th in the nation in scoring with an average of 20.3 points per game. Three other Racers average scoring in double figures, including senior forward Jarvis Williams, who averages 15.5 points per game. Williams is 17th in the nation when it comes to field goal percentage, making close to 60 percent of his attempts per contest.

Where the Racers might struggle against the Miners is when it comes to size. Williams is listed at 6-foot-8 as the biggest man on the Murray State squad. UTEP has a 6-foot-8 guard in Washburn, a 6-foot-8 forward in sophomore forward Vince Hunter and all three centers—Lang, Hooper Vint and Matt Willms—are close to the 7-foot mark.

UTEP will continue to rely heavily on their seniors as they look to send them off in a positive manner.

Washburn, who was just named the Conference USA Defensive Player of the Year, has been the best in scoring at a high rate since receiving the award. He has scored a season-high 19 points in his last two games, puts his career total at 1,518, making him the sixth-best in program history.

2015 NATIONAL INVITATION TOURNAMENT



see NIT on page 11

MARCH MADNESS

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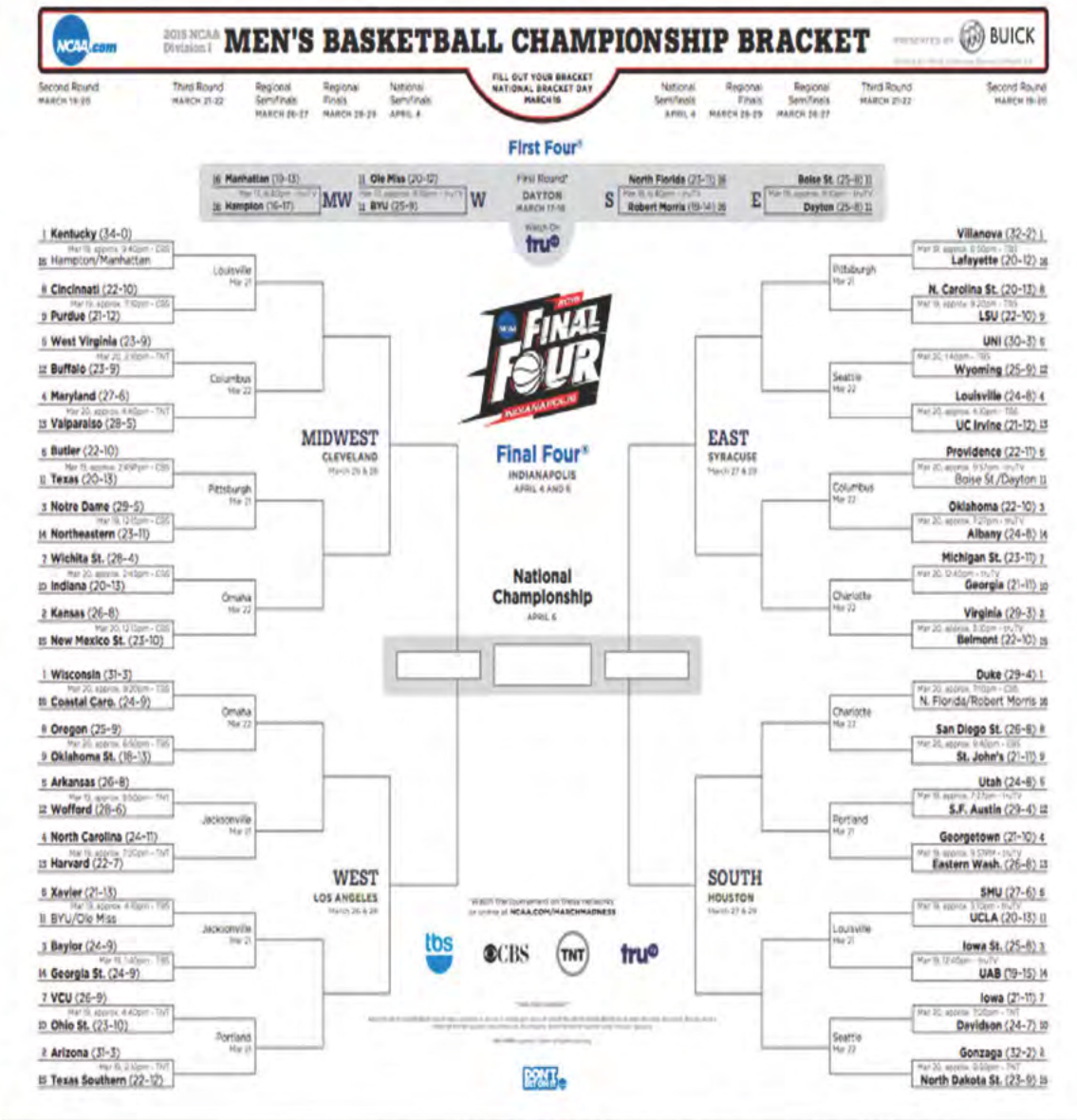


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Softball travels to Las Cruces for Battle of I-10



RUBY CERINO / THE PROSPECTOR

The Miners' softball team is 5-3 over its last eight games and 3-3 in Conference USA.

BY JASON GREEN

The Prospector

The UTEP softball team (8-22) will head to Las Cruces tomorrow to take on the NMSU Aggies (18-8) in the continuation of softball's portion of the I-10 rivalry.

The Miners headed into last weekend's matchup with the No. 25 University of Alabama-Birmingham Blazers riding a five-game winning streak. The team did not leave Birmingham with the streak intact, but the three losses were far from crushing defeats. Head coach Tobin Echo-Hawk took a lot of positives from her team's recent road losses.

"I can't be disappointed by the three games," Echo-Hawk said. "We played really well against one of the top teams in the country and that just kind of shows what we are capable of when we are playing really well."

The Miners' pitching—which ranked among the league's worst last season—has made quite a turnaround in the last few weeks.

Sophomore pitcher Kaitlin Fifield has been vital in the recent run of wins and close finishes. In Sunday's series finale with the Blazers, Fifield gave up only one earned run during her six innings of work. Echo-Hawk is very pleased with her young pitcher's work so far this season.

"She did a great job holding that team to two runs. She got herself into

some jams but, she got out of it. We had the bases loaded with one out and came away with no runs scored against us," Echo-Hawk said. "She's just been on fire—really consistent—you can tell that her confidence level just keeps getting better and better every game."

Great pitching will definitely be needed when the team heads down I-10 to face one of the most prolific offenses so far in this young softball season. The Aggies have combined for 43 home runs so far this season and have six regular starters batting .350 or above.

Echo-Hawk knows that the Miners will have to put on a performance equal to or better than what they did against UAB if they want to head home with a victory.

"They are a tremendous hitting team. We are going to have to play our best in order to compete with them. I think our pitching is very similar. It's just who is going to make the least amount of errors and get those timely hits," Echo-Hawk said. "Their offense is one of the best in the country so, we definitely have a huge task in front of us."

Echo-Hawk will be counting on team leaders such as junior infielder Kawehiokalani Netane and senior outfielder Ashley Eldridge to get the timely hits needed to defeat NMSU. Netane currently sports a .389 batting average to go along with four home

runs and 20 runs batted in. Eldridge leads the team in RBIs with 22 and also has four home runs.

Two freshmen have started almost every game for the young Miners team—infielders Courtney Clayton and Taylor Sargent. Echo-Hawk knows that their batting averages are not where the players would like them to be but that they have a lot to offer the team as a whole.

"They're just really consistent. Offensively they're capable of a lot more than what they're showing—it's just, I think, freshman jitters and getting used to things," Echo-Hawk said. Defensively, they're just both so solid. It's nice to have two freshmen on the infield be as talented as they are."

After sweeping Middle Tennessee State for their first conference open-

ing 3-0 start since 2010, the Miners also took both games from Texas Tech at the Helen of Troy Softball Complex. Although they lost all three at University of Alabama at Birmingham, Echo-Hawk has her team focused on revenge against their heated rival for now. She is glad that her team had extra time during spring break to focus on themselves.

It will be the 33rd time Miners and Aggies play each other. NMSU holds the edge with a record of 22-10 in the series. UTEP has only won twice in Aggie territory, and the last time the

Miners left Las Cruces with a victory was in 2010.

"NMSU is probably the most important for us, just being a cross-town rival. I know we beat them last year, but overall in the last five years I think we are one and 10 or 12—so, that's been our major focus for this weekend," Echo-Hawk said. "Especially since they had the weekend off. We kind of just free up every thought process and focus on them."

Jason Green may be reached at theprospector@daily.sports@gmail.com.

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NIT from page 9

Cooper has steered the ship all season long, providing experience and composure from the point-guard position. He is a threat from beyond the arc, scoring a third-best in program history with 155 3-point field goals throughout his four-year career.

Lang, whose 10.5 points per game rank third on the team, has scored in double figures 20 times this season. In his previous three years as a Miner, he had a combined 16 double-digit performances. He leads the team in field goal percentage and has missed just four of his 23 shots over the last five games. Lang's 58.1 career field goal average is the best in program history at the moment.

"He's just gotten so much better," Floyd said about Lang. "He was challenged offensively...but he is a force down there now."

The Racers and the Miners have played on three different occasions, but the last time was in 1964. Murray

State holds the edge over UTEP, winning two of the three meetings.

The expectations were as high as they have been for a while when UTEP basketball got underway in November, and after what seemed to be a very disappointing ending, the Miners have one more opportunity to make this season a memorable one. It will be one last chance for three seniors, who have been the foundation of what Floyd is trying to build in El Paso.

Washburn, Cooper and Lang have 78 wins wearing the orange and blue and would like to add five more to that total before they close the book for good.

"We're happy we get another opportunity to play, we thought our careers were done at UTEP," Cooper said. "We're going to go and play hard...we want to win it."

Luis Gonzalez may be reached at theprospector@daily.sports@gmail.com.



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Track and field opens outdoor season at home

BY JUAN CARLOS NAVARRETE
The Prospector

The UTEP track and field team will be at home for their first outdoor competition of the year when they host the UTEP Springtime meet on March 21, at Kidd Field.

After a pretty successful indoor season, in which the women won the Conference USA Championship and the men finished third, the Miners will look to get off to a fast start of the season.

“We have a good team right now, and this is a good time for me to see how everyone is participating,” said head coach Mika Laaksonen.

This will be the first of three meets the Miners will host this season. Laaksonen and his squad are looking forward to performing in front of a home crowd.

“It’s good that the meet is at home,” Laaksonen said. “For the athletes to have people cheering makes them feel better, and it is a way that they can win.”

As it’s been for the past couple of years, one of the main attractions when it comes to UTEP track and field are its distance runners. Senior Anthony Rotich and sophomore Cosmas Boit have set the pace for the men’s team all throughout this year.

After running three separate events in one day at the conference championships, Rotich finished his indoor career at UTEP with a third place medal at the National Championships in the mile run. He was named an All-American for the ninth time in his illustrious career.

“Anthony insisted on running three distance events in a one-day meet at the Conference USA Championships,” Laaksonen said. “It was very telling of what kind of person he is by going for an impossible triple like that just to give the team a chance. Rarely do you see that kind of unselfishness from a great athlete.”

Although distance seems to be the Miners’ specialty on the men’s side, UTEP has talent all throughout their roster and in many different events. Senior sprinter Abiola Onakoya runs the 200-meter and 400-meter events and he will try to start the outdoor season as well as his team ended the indoor season.

“I feel ready and am motivated to run at my best,” Onakoya said. “It is always good to run at home, and hopefully we can have many fans cheer us.”

Onakoya finished fifth in the 400-meter dash at the Conference USA Indoor Championships with a time of 48.40.

Although this can be seen as somewhat of a warm up for the season, the team will want to keep the momentum going from the success achieved in conference and at the national level.

“It is good for our athletes to compete at home, they can have other fans here, and the rest is better when they don’t have to leave the campus, Laaksonen said. “If they can stay healthy and compete, they can do good.”

The women are having a historic year with winning the program’s first conference championship.

This event can be a nice warm up, which they hope will lead to more success at the end of the season. .

The women may not have a lot of time to celebrate that championship as the outdoor season will start as fast as the last season ended. The women had one week to prepare and attempt to defend their title.

Among the leaders for the women’s team is senior hurdler Greta Kerekes.

She ran the indoor 60-meter hurdles, but will be running the 100-meter hurdles during the outdoor season. Kerekes helped to propel UTEP to that historic championship by winning her event at the conference meet.

“I could not believe that I had won. I had to look around to make sure I crossed first,” Kerekes said. “I expected to end the race in maybe third, but when I crossed first, I was so excited.”

This will be the first of four meets UTEP will host this outdoor season, the fourth and final one being the Conference USA Outdoor Championships in mid-May. With the little time between the end of the indoor season and the start of the outdoor one, running at home is something the Miners are looking forward to. Performing in front of their crowd, looking to keep the momentum going as they begin what both women and men hope will be another dominating season.

Juan Carlos Navarrete can be reached at theprospector@daily.sports@gmail.com.



The UTEP Springtime track and field meet will be an all day event on March 21, at Kidd Field..

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Neon Desert

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