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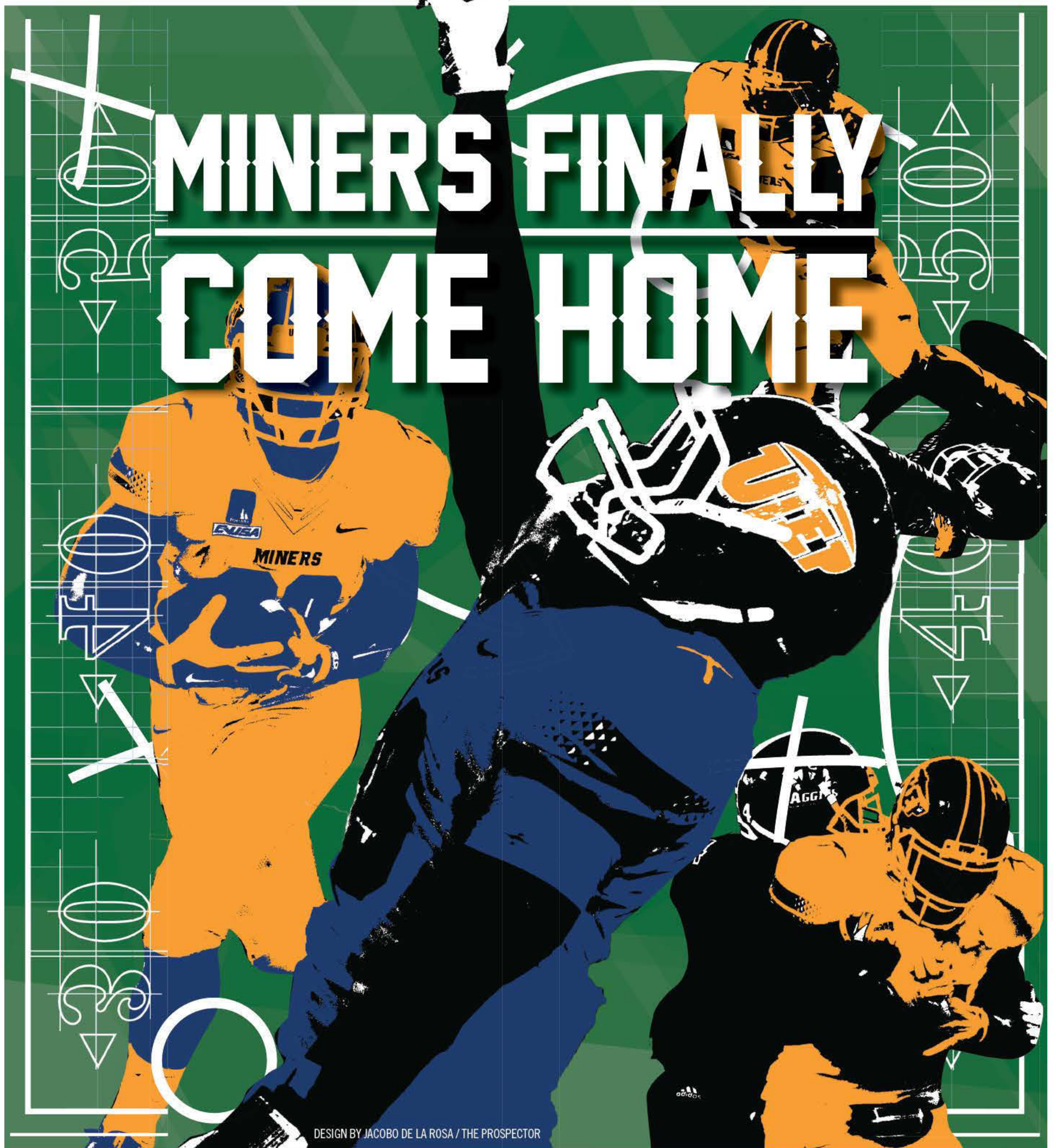
THE PROSPECTOR

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VOL. 101, NO. 5

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015



DESIGN BY JACOBO DE LA ROSA / THE PROSPECTOR

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SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
LUIS GONZALEZ, 747-7477

The death of Romo?



BY JAVIER CORTEZ
The Prospector

This past Sunday, Sept. 20, the Dallas Cowboys' starting quarterback Tony Romo broke his collarbone against the Philadelphia Eagles in a 20-10 win. The injury means that the Cowboys are without their star quarterback for at least eight weeks.

At 35-years old and with another major injury on the books, it begs the question; is Tony Romo done? If he is done; what is his legacy?

Maybe it's too far fetched to say Romo's career is over, but the brittle-boned quarterback is not getting any younger. Although the 12-year veteran seems to be in his prime and playing some the best football of his life, prior to the injury, history has shown that quarterbacks in their mid to late 30s do not age well, especially when they suffer serious injuries.

I'm not going to eulogize Romo, but since he will be out for more than half of the season, it's appropriate to reflect on Romo's career and clear up some recent misconceptions about No. 9.

Whenever Romo's career ends there is going to be a huge debate surrounding just how good he was. The stats by almost all accounts say that he was pretty damn good. But his play-off flubs and injuries halt Romo from being considered in the same discussion with the likes of Aaron Rodgers, Ben Roethlisberger and Eli Manning.

Cowboy fans of late have conveniently forgotten about the Romo of old, whom they scolded, booed and consistently asked to be traded. The Romo narrative has gone through a drastic change; and now he is a clutch quarterback who can carry a team.

These new assertions about Romo are true, but only to a certain extent. Any Romo supporter will torpedo you with his elite fourth-quarter stats, game-winning drives, etc. But they don't mean much when the games have no bearing on playoff implications.

Does anyone remember those three-straight 8-8 seasons from 2011 to 2013?

The coup de grâce for most Romo supporters are his "rock solid" playoff stats that rank amongst the best in NFL history. This argument is the most pathetic and probably the most illogical.

Although Romo's career playoff stats in six games are good, they are no where near great. His 2-4 record and two-game losing turnovers in 2006 and 2007 show anything but great. But if you really want to put Romo's playoff numbers in context, you have to understand that they are slightly inflated due to the Cowboys' playoff run last season.

You take away last season's playoff run and Romo's career stats are subpar to decent.

Lastly, the assertion that Romo can carry a team is off base. His best season, which came last season, came at the expense of 392 rushing attempts by DeMarco Murray.

Then there is the argument that Romo's numbers are better than Troy Aikman's numbers, so by that fact he must be really good. That would be true if Aikman, himself, were an elite quarterback, which he was not.

Aikman was more or less a game manager who was surrounded by a plethora of offensive talent, starting with Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin.

I know what this sounds like just another asshole who hates the Cowboys. But it's really not—Romo is a good quarterback who is on the cusp of being elite/great.

He has had the tools at his disposal to build a great career, and in part he has been dealt with a bad hand in the injury department. The biggest flaw in Romo's career is his timing. If he came around in the late '80s he might possibly have multiple rings on his finger.

But Romo's career is not over, he still has time to rectify his playoff shortcomings and build on his legacy. As for now, the Cowboys are stuck. They are committed long term to a good quarterback, who is neither elite nor self-sustainable for a 16-game season.

The Cowboy nation has deluded themselves into thinking they have a championship-caliber team, when in reality they are a fringe playoff team at best on a year-to-year basis.

Speaking pessimistically, the Cowboys should consider the future of their franchise very heavily over the course of this season, and it starts with evaluating the man under center.

Javier Cortez may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.



THE PROSPECTOR

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Donald Trump gets a big hit



Piñata Party Supplies provides Donald Trump piñatas for \$39.99. MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

BY MARIA ESQUINCA
The Prospecter

Red, white and green piñatas hang from the rafters of Piñata Party Supplies. But in between the rows of streamers, candies, and princess costumes, one piñata doesn't hang—the Donald Trump piñata stands, straight and unflinching.

“It's a means of symbolically getting rid of evil.”

— Dennis J. Bixler-Marquez, director of Chicano Studies

The blue eyed, open-mouthed, suit-wearing piñata is precisely replicated, except for his signature blonde toupee, which is subtly morphed, and three blonde hairs jut out like sharp horns.

“It's very funny,” said Debbie Nathan, who bought a Donald Trump piñata from Piñata Party Supplies. “It's a culture treasure coming out of the border.”

The process to create the piñata takes a whole day and is sold for \$39.99 by Piñata Party Supplies, located at 3524 Alameda Ave.

However, the Trump piñata is not unique to El Paso. In Reynosa, Mexico, Piñateria Ramirez sells a Donald Trump piñata, and in the city of Chihuahua, Mexico, a piñata store Fiesta Fiesta, sells one as well.

The use of the piñata to represent unpopular figures is a cultural tradition in Mexico, which can be extended to the likes of the current Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto.

“The piñata is coming from the border,” Nathan said. “It's coming from Mexico because people know how to instinctively embody everything they know is wrong with him.”

Trump has become notorious for his views on immigration and Mexicans. During his presidential announcement, he said Mexicans are rapists. He was also criticized for kicking out Jorge Ramos, a Mexican-American journalist, out of a press conference and telling him to go back to Univision, a United States Spanish language television network.

Dennis J. Bixler-Marquez, director of Chicano Studies, said the piñata is a tool of resistance, whose symbolic use extends back to colonial times when indigenous people had to paint the murals of Spanish churches.

“There's a lot of history of resistance to oppression and being in a subordinate status in Mexico and Latin America,” he said. “What the indigenous population did was to ensure that the facial features, when you saw the devil, you had no doubt in your mind that this was a European, this was a Spaniard, rather than someone with a Mesoamerican phenotype.”

Bixler-Marquez said the cultural use of the piñata as a way to admonish “evil” can also be observed the Saturday after Holy

Friday, in which a piñata, which represents the devil is beat up.

“It's a means of symbolically getting rid of evil, getting rid of the devil and obviously the character is undesirable,” Bixler-Marquez said. “The use of the piñata becomes a manner of manifested political resentment, discontent—a way of promoting resistance against a political measure.”

Something that has extended to the spoken language.

“Even the term piñata as a noun, turned into a verb, ‘lo piñatearon, lo van a piñatear,’ meaning he's going to be attacked, he's going to be beaten up for his position,” he said.

“I've heard that used in television and radio during the last week.”

So far, around 12 piñatas have been sold by Piñata Party Supplies. The owner did not wish to further comment on the piñata.

“People should really embrace these piñatas,” Nathan said. “The city should embrace the Trump piñata, it's an amazing border object.”

Maria Esquinca may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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Pope’s visit to nonprofit to shine light on poverty in U.S.



Sister Donna Markham, president of Catholic Charities USA, says Pope Francis’ trip to the United States highlight the issue of poverty in the U.S.

AMANDA GUILLER / SHFWIRE

BY AMANDA GUILLER
SHFWire

WASHINGTON – Poverty in the United States has remained at a consistent high in the past five years. As Pope Francis visits here this week, he will meet some of the city’s poorest residents.

Census data released this month estimates the poverty rate in 2014 was 14.8 percent, or 46.7 million people. Catholic Charities USA served 8.7 million people in 2014, including Catholics and others. Half were adults younger than 65, 18 percent were senior citizens and 32 percent were children.

The national nonprofit’s mission is to work to reduce poverty in the United States. With Pope Francis scheduled to arrive in the U.S. on Tuesday, Sept. 2 the issue of poverty in relation to the Pope’s focus on the impoverished is a topic that Catholic Charities USA knows all too well.

Sister Donna Markham, the group’s president, said last week that everyone should be aware of poverty. Catholic Charities USA spent more than \$4.3 billion to assist poor people last year with a staff of 61,907 and 267,626 volunteers. Markham said the pope’s visit will illuminate the issue and bring it to the forefront of people’s minds. “As an expression of our faith and solidarity with Pope Francis, Catholic Charities is right now taking on the obligation to call to awareness the plight of those who are living in poverty,” Markham said.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington worked with the District of Columbia to provide six emergency shelters to anyone in need and four traditional housing programs for people on the path to independent living.

Erik Salmi, the group’s director of communications, said there are misconceptions about homelessness.

“Some of the hardest working folks that I’ve met are our clients, and I’ve heard a saying that where you finish the race depends on where you start and I think that is especially true of the clients that we see,” Salmi said. “I think that is still a misconception that people think that they are just freeloading or that they have given up and that is just not true.”

Catholic Charities agencies across the country conduct outreach to understand what needs to be done to get people off the streets and place them in homes.

Nationwide, Catholic Charities has provided 524,010 housing services that can include emergency shelters and traditional housing programs.

Additional services include providing affordable housing, offering foreclosure prevention support, rental assistance, case management, housing search and information, home mortgage assistance and supervised living for those who are developmentally disabled, mentally ill and elderly.

“Throughout my own religious life, some of my most profound mentors have been the broken hearted and the marginalized often invisible to many of us,” Markham said.

Markham said that throughout her career as a clinical psychologist her teachers have often been those who suffer from severe cases of mental illness, who she said make up a large part of the homeless population.

Markham ended her talk with an excerpt from the pope’s homily given Jan. 3, 2014, at the Church of the Gesu in Rome, where he said, “An authentic faith always implies a deep desire to change the world.”

Reach reporter Amanda Guillen at amanda.guillen@scripps.com or 202-408-1490. SHFWire stories are free to any news organization that gives the reporter a byline and credits the SHFWire. Like the Scripps Howard Foundation Wire interns on Facebook, Instagram and follow us on Twitter.

“Catholic Charities is right now taking on the obligation to call to awareness the plight of those who are living in poverty.”

— Sister Donna Markham, president, Catholic Charities USA

The group hopes its #End45-Raise a Hand to End Poverty in America campaign will bring awareness to poverty and draw volunteers. “There are a lot of judgments made about people who are poor, suggesting that they should just go out and find a job,” Markham said. “Well, sometimes they are too distraught to even be able to get to that place, and I do think we started the campaign because most Americans don’t know the extent of the problem in this country.” On average 7,784 people are homeless every day in D.C.



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Enrollment at UTEP continues to grow



For the 17th consecutive year UTEP recorded an increase in overall enrollment.

ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

BY LUIS GONZALEZ
The Prospector

The University of Texas at El Paso opened its doors in 1914 to 27 students under the name of Texas State School of Mines. Over the next 100 years, UTEP has seen its enrollment figures grow to much more than those original 27 students. It was announced last week that UTEP has 23,397 students enrolled for this school year, a 1.4 percent increase from last year's 23,079 figure. This makes it 17 straight years in which the university has recorded an increase in the number of students who are attending.

“We’re really proud of what we’re doing here at UTEP to increase the number of students that are pursuing a college education.”

**- Gary Edens ,
Vice President of Student Affairs**

“It’s not so much about it being great for UTEP, it’s great for this community,” said Vice President of Student Affairs Gary Edens. “Raising education throughout El Paso has been a goal for many, many years. We’re really proud of what we’re doing here at UTEP to increase the number of students that are pursuing a college education.”

The biggest increase recorded for UTEP was in the number of graduate students. A 12.8 percent increase in graduate students is a great sign that the university is headed on the right track towards achieving the coveted tier-one status.

With over 100 graduate programs, that include 20, soon to be 21, doctoral programs and 78 masters programs, UTEP is becoming a good option for students seeking education after their undergraduate career is completed.

“We have such a range of opportunities and we have very high level excellence with the programs that we have,” said Bess Sirmon-Taylor, associate dean of the Graduate School. “We have world-class researchers and professors with really strong reputations.”

Enrollment also saw a rise in new undergraduate students, with 4,998 compared to last fall’s 4,840.

There was an increase in both local and out-of-town students, but with 80 percent of the students being from the Paso del Norte region, making UTEP very much a commuter school. That is exactly the goal of UTEP, according to Edens, and it is the focus of most, if not all, of its recruitment resources.

“We’re still vastly from El Paso, which is what we want,” Edens said. “We’re a regional university. We don’t go and recruit in Iowa and Ohio—we want students from this region to come to UTEP and get a degree.”

Focusing on the schools in and around El Paso, UTEP uses a vast amount of resources to continue with the trend of increasing enrollment year after year.

“We do a lot,” Edens said. “We have a pretty robust team that uses technology and uses electronic media and social media to recruit and dialog with juniors and seniors and our transfer student population.”

UTEP recruiters are present in area high schools on a daily basis; targeting juniors and seniors on the importance of a college education, along with letting them know about the opportunities that the university can provide them. Those types of visits are followed up with informational packets sent electronically. Last year UTEP emailed an information packet to every single junior and senior in every school throughout Region 19.

The university also works with students in terms of financial aid and scholarships—looking to make their path toward a college education much easier and smoother.

Transfer fairs at El Paso Community College and college nights at local high schools are other ways in which UTEP continues to increase its enrollment—which is the goal from year to year.

That is really all UTEP is concerned with, seeing growth no matter the percentage.

Each year the target is to see a 2 to 3 percent increase in enrollment, but there are many variables that impact enrollment. The target is not an obsession and coming in under that figure is not the end of the world. Many different variables account for enrollment figures and just to keep the numbers at an upward trend is good for UTEP.

“The last few years we’ve been just under that (2 to 3 percent target), but that’s great too,” Edens said. “We want everybody that graduates from a high school to come to UTEP.”

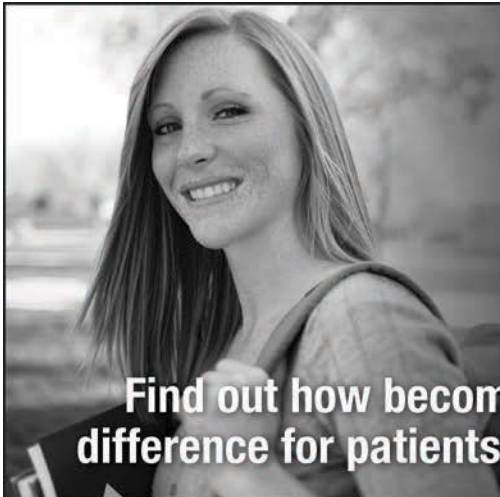
The magic number for next year is 24,000 and the university is looking at more than just entering students. Retaining students who are already part of the student body is as important as being able to recruit as many freshmen and transfer students as possible.

Losing students to graduation, transferring to other colleges or to them dropping out directly affects the total number of students enrolled at the university. The less transfers and drop outs there are, the more the enrollment figure increases with the incoming new students.

UTEP is making a great effort not just to bring students to campus, but also to keep them here.

“We not only look at the students that are brand new coming to the university, but we’re looking at how we can serve the current students that are here,” Edens said. “We’re working really hard to make sure that the retention numbers are positive and they have been over the past few years.”

Luis Gonzalez may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

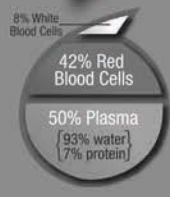


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UTEP to introduce School of Pharmacy



ANDRES MARTINEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

The first full stand-alone School of Pharmacy is planned to launch in the fall of 2017.

BY ALONSO MORENO
The Prospector

In continued efforts to improve the university and its educational catalog, UTEP is preparing the final steps for the introduction of a new School of Pharmacy. UTEP is planning on launching its first full stand-alone School of Pharmacy in the fall of 2017 to replace its current co-operative program with the University of Texas at Austin. The university has already named the founding dean for the school, José O Rivera, Pharm. D., who cur-

rently serves as a professor of clinical pharmacy and the director of the current cooperative pharmacy program. Rivera said that the current program is not only limited, but also represents a disparity in the potential benefits for UTEP. "Currently, we have a cooperative pharmacy program between UTEP and UT Austin, but it's limited in the number of students we can admit," Rivera said. "We can only admit 12 students per year; they do pre-pharmacy at UTEP, but then they have to relocate to Austin for

the first two years of the program, then they come back and finish the last 2 years in the program with us." Furthermore, the program is not financially viable for students or the university. "Financially it's not viable, long term it has major limitations," Rivera said. "All the revenue, once you are in the pharmacy program, goes to Austin, all the expenses are UTEP's and that's a mismatch." The first cohort is expected to start with about 25 to 30 students, but Rivera is hopeful that the pro-

gram will expand to possibly cater to more students, who might be interested in the field of pharmacy. The school will also seek to change the current way students are selected for pharmacy programs. Currently, the criteria used for admission relies heavily on standardized testing in order to better assess the student candidate. According to Rivera, this is not a bad way to select students, but it will not be perfect to find a more rounded student, specially Latino students. "The test (known as PCAT) can be somewhat biased against first-generation English-speaking students, so for that reason we are not going to do that," Rivera said. "We will still look at it, but we are interested in the individual as a whole." Rivera also said that the program aims to help with the disparity between the patients to pharmacists' ratio. "Here in the region, we have close to 60 pharmacists to 100,000 (citizens) in population, and in the state the average is about 90," Rivera said. "If we look at that and we have about 800,000 in population, we are about 240 pharmacists short." Although the numbers may paint an alarming picture, the reality is that the field of pharmacy represents a fantastic opportunity for students. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, pharmacists earn a mean hourly wage of \$56.96, and earn a mean annual wage of \$118,470.

Forbes listed pharmacy manager as the number two highest paying, in-demand job in America. Only physician jobs were ranked above pharmacists in terms of job openings and salary. Carla Stevenson, a junior business major, said that at one point she considered the current pharmacy program, but that she ultimately deterred it due to the financial costs. "It's great that it's coming—a little late for me—but we all (students) know where the money is at," Stevenson said. "Medical, and therefore pharmacy, are big ones, but once you realize the costs of a career in the field, it's too much. Now that we will have a program here, more students will be able to pursue those careers." There is also disparity in the number of Latino pharmacists in the nation. "When you look nationwide, only 4 percent of students in pharmacy are Latinos, whereas the US population is 17 percent, so we should be closer," Rivera said. Due to this disparity, there have been companies in the pharmaceutical industry that have approached the university interested in offering scholarships to Spanish-speaking students. "They are interested (the companies) in hiring bilingual pharmacists that serve populations anywhere in the US, where there is a large Spanish-speaking community," Rivera said. Alonso Moreni may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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Who are you supporting in the 2016 presidential campaign and why?

JONATHON DUARTE, ANDRES MARTINEZ, ANGEL ULLOA, SERGIO ZAMORA/ THE PROSPECTOR



CHRISTINA ROLPH
Sophomore pre-pharmacy major
"I'm voting Ben Carson, because I read his book "Gifted Hands" and because he holds the future of healthcare in his gifted hands."



ALEXANDRO CARRIZALES
Sophomore pre-BBA major
"I haven't really looked into the people running for president, however, I want to vote for a candidate that aims to keep the free enterprise system strong."



NAYELI JIMENEZ
Freshman education major
"I want to vote. I'm not really sure for who, but I want it to be a Republican. I want to vote for a person who will grant more opportunity to the people that come here to study for the immigrants."



DANIEL ALONZO
Junior biology major
"I'm voting for Hillary Clinton because she's a woman. There's no other reason."



CARLA ROSETE
Junior management major
"I am an international student so I cannot vote but if I had the opportunity to vote I wouldn't vote for Trump."



DANIEL GARCIA
Freshman mechanical engineering major
"I do plan to vote this year, but due to the many candidates I have not done my research on most of them. So, when I research the candidates, I will decide which one to vote for."



ITZEL PAYAN
Sophomore political science major
"I'm voting Bernie Sanders, cause he's a pro-student boss, who doesn't care about the media. #feelthebern."



DANIEL REYES
Freshman political science major
"Ben Carson 2016!"



ANA HERNANDEZ
Senior media advertising major
"I am not a resident here but if I could vote, I would vote for Bernie Sanders, I really admire his ideals."



SALVADOR ESTRADA
Freshman civil engineering major
"This upcoming election I will not vote. I am undecided because I'm not rooting for anyone at the moment. Whatever happens will not matter to me as much as it should."



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SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
JOSE SOTO, 747-7477

The football look: what the player’s unifroms are all about



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

Junior wide receiver Jaquan White runs down the field in UTEP's new uniforms.

BY JULIA HETTIGER
The Prosecutor

Many football fans are familiar with the rules, regulations and plays of football, but there are few who know the amount of work that goes on outside of the playing field. Maintaining a football player’s image and the cost of preserving a player’s uniform can be quite shocking. Nathan Garrido, graduate assistant at the athletics department, said it costs around \$28,000 to purchase new pants and jerseys for every player on the team. “We bought new uniforms this year, and it cost \$28,000 to replace the pants and jerseys for the whole team. Although we usually buy extras and blanks ones just in case,” Garrido said. Alan Luna, a kicker for the UTEP football team, said when choosing a uniform, most choose the one they are most comfortable with. “It’s like buying anything else, the sizes come in small, medium and large,” Luna said. Luna also said there’s something different about wearing a football uniform compared to everyday clothes like jeans and shirts. “Everything is tighter, it fits to your body and is comfortable,” Luna said. “But personally, I like wearing a uniform because it makes me feel different than everyone else.” Garrido said helmets are a separate expense, and it usually costs \$35,000 to replace the helmets, although they usually send them in for reconditioning instead.

To recondition the helmets, the athletics department sends the helmets in to Riddell, a company that specializes in sports equipment for football. There, they respray the outside, change out the pads and replace the facemasks. “Replacing the facemasks is an ex-

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We want our fans to have an enjoyable experience in a safe environment

- Jorge Vasquez
sexecutive director of
Special Events

tra cost and can be anywhere from \$35 to \$50 per facemask,” Garrido said. “Since we are a university, we receive a reduced cost, as do most high school and university teams, but if we

were a random person going in, they would probably charge us double.” Along with the yearly maintenance performed on the helmets, the managers also work to preserve the uniforms by washing them carefully. “We spray them down after games, and then wash and hang them out to dry to avoid issues with the dryer,” Garrido said. “The head manager prefers we do that so none of them shrink. If they are torn, we sew them and stitch them up to make them useable again, but if it’s real bad we will replace them altogether. But usually they’re small holes that don’t do much damage.” The coach managers will try to preserve the uniforms for as long as possible, but will replace them if they are not reusable. “We replace uniforms yearly only if they are damaged or torn, so that’s when we’ll order new ones,” Garrido said. “If not, we’ll use them as long as they are needed, but sometimes we have to replace them if they are damaged really badly during the game by the paint.” Unless they are badly damaged, uniforms are passed down from player to player once a player graduates. “Their names are nameplates sewn onto the jerseys, so once they graduate we remove them and replace them with the next player’s nameplate,” Garrido said. “It’s like a bumper sticker, just to put it into perspective.” Although the paint used on the field can damage the uniforms, Gar-

rido said they rarely have to actually replace the jerseys during the game. “I think we only had to once when a lineman had a small hole in his jersey and someone grabbed him and completely ripped the shirt to where his chest was exposed. We had to run and get him a new, blank one,” Garrido said. “Just in case it does happen though, during the game we’ll give a player a blank one and then have it remade with his name.” A football uniform consists of a helmet, facemask, jersey, pants and padded shirt to protect ribs, sternum and shoulders. Many of them like to wear tight, fitted shirts under their jerseys. Under their uniforms they also wear girdles, which provide them with padding on their hips, thighs and buttocks. In the past, the girdle came without pads and players had slots to put the pads in instead. Players, like linebackers and running backs, wear other padding like kneepads to protect them from rough low hits. While components of the uniforms have remained consistent, there have been slight changes and improvements made to them in recent years. “Over the years the uniforms have changed in the sense that they’ve become tighter, more fitted and better suited for protection against rough plays,” Garrido said. “They’re thinner, more stretchable and more durable.” A recent trend for the uniforms is to bring back helmet styles from different decades.

“For the centennial, we brought back the style of the helmets from the ‘80s because coach Kugler played then,” Garrido said. “It was a big thing; we brought back the logos, and it was a good walk down memory lane, reminiscing good times.” Brittany Huerta, junior health promotion major, said she was unfamiliar with the maintenance of football uniforms. “I’m more of a hockey person than a football fan, but I didn’t realize maintenance for the uniforms was so extraneous,” Huerta said. Although she was unfamiliar with the process, trying to preserve a jersey is something she can relate to. “I own a hockey jersey, but I haven’t washed it yet because I’m kind of scared to.” Huerta said.

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

What you need to know about this year's tailgates

BY FERNANDA LEON
The Prospector

Now that football season is here students at the University of Texas at El Paso and Miner fans in general are starting to get ready for UTEP's first home game. Along with sup- porting the UTEP football team, the tradi- tion of tailgating is the most common form of socializing before a game. Carlos Sanchez, senior Spanish major, said tailgating is about having a good time with friends and family. "At the same time tailgat- ing supports the college sports teams in a nice and family ori- ented environment," Sanchez said. Many of the rules and regulations have changed for this fall's tailgating events in order to improve the safety of the tailgaters. Some spots inside campus have changed from regular tailgating, to picnic style tailgating. A regulation that has been added is the prohibition of drones on universi- ty property for the safety of the public. With the recent opening of the Centennial Plaza, people will be able to tailgate in the area, but it won't be the usual tailgating experience.

"The use of Centennial Plaza and the new spaces changed from regular tail- gating to picnic 'soft' tailgating style," said Jorge Vazquez, executive director of the Office of Special Events at UTEP. Vazquez said this means that the areas that are labeled as "soft tail- gating" will not allow tents, chairs, grills and tables. Only blankets and picnic-style activities will be al- lowed in Centennial Plaza, geology lawn and areas around Old Main. On the other hand, outer lots and parking spaces will al- low regular tailgating activities. During regular tailgating activities, glass containers, kegs, beer balls, beer funnels and other similar objects will not be permitted around campus. In order to prevent unfortunate situations like a fight that occurred last year during a tailgating party before the game against Texas Tech on Sept. 6, the UTEP Police De- partment will take special measures. "UTEP Police Department and other law enforcement agencies will be on site as they are every season to ensure the safety of our patrons as they partake in the football fes- tivities," Vazquez said. "We want

our fans to have an enjoyable ex- perience in a safe environment." Students, faculty and staff mem- bers, as well as the general public, may

“ We want our fans to have an enjoyable experience in a safe environment ”

— Jorge Vazquez
sexecutive director of
Special Events

begin tailgating at 8 a.m. in the outer lots. For inner campus tailgates, the public may begin arriving at 2 p.m. "I've never experienced a prob- lem, everything is always very calm," said Diego Portillo, senior art ma- jor. "I've always seen police vigi- lance, but I've never seen a conflict." No ticket purchase for the game is required to tailgate at UTEP. Everyone is welcomed. "Tailgating is free," Vazquez said. "Corporate or company par- ties should call the athletics de- partment to make arrangements if they wish to use Kidd Field." Kidd Field is located next to the Sun Bowl Stadium. Tents are avail- able for rent, with availability for groups of 50 or more people at a starting price of \$425, which includes tables, chairs and optional catering. Season and single game passes to tailgate at the Kidd Field are also available at different prices. The single game passes for adults are \$20 and \$5 for children and sea- sonal passes are \$100 for adults and \$25 for children. Each pass includes a meal, drinks and give-aways.

Free parking will be offered at lots S3, P1, P2 and P3—which also includes ADA parking—and P4. Shuttle services will be available for the south lots only. For the safety of the public, UTEP tailgate events are enforced with different rules and regula- tions that will ensure an enjoy- able football experience and, at the same time, help provide a great experience for all the Miner fans. "There is no doubt that we all can be part of events like these and form a community where everyone can enjoy a good time without having to spend too much," Sanchez said. For more information, con- tact the UTEP Police Department, athletic department or the Of- fice of Special Events or visit the website www.tailgate.utep.edu.
Fernanda Leon may be reached at the prospectordaily. ent@gmail.com.

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'ESPN Fantasy Football' app a must have amongst football fanatics



A student uses the ESPN Fantasy Football app inbetween classes.

JONATHON DUARTE/ THE PROSPECTOR

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

The fall season marks the start of many things, but nothing symbolizes the arrival of the season like the glorious sport of football. For the 2015 football year, the tradition of fantasy football once again takes center stage for many fans. One major fantasy football app is "ESPN Fantasy Football," which allows the NFL fans to showcase their knowledge of the game and play head-to-head against each other. "ESPN Fantasy Football" allows the user to either create a team or join a league. ESPN-sponsored drafts are

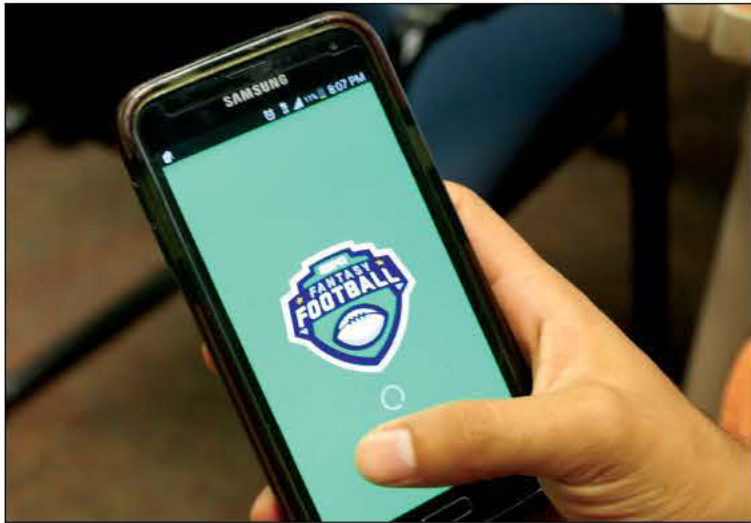
nationwide, which allow you join the league and draft against random people. This feature is interesting because often one feels stranded or hopeless after drafting a bad team. However, this feature also allows the user to join a new league. Although the draft itself on the app is at times confusing, it can be broken down into three different sections: top player available, top player per position and draft order. For the top player on the board, the player can find the best player to draft on the squad. It is easy to see the team the player is on, their position and their projected points they can give to the team.

The next section, the top player per position, helps show the one position that you need to fill on the team. For example, if you forget to get a kicker in the late rounds while drafting, by clicking on the top player position feature, you are able to snag the best kicker that is still available. The last, and definitely least likable, feature in the drafting process is the draft order ticker. Not only is

the order of the draft very confusing, but it is nearly impossible for one to know when they are about to draft. It requires constant attention in drafting for the league, and simply taking a restroom break can mean an auto draft on your team. Next season, ESPN should offer a more organized and designated drafting order for the viewer. Once teams are assembled and the season starts, the fantasy begins on Tuesday when league members are encouraged to start/sit players, request trades amongst other teams and pick up "free agents" in the draft. To start/sit players, ESPN offers a very efficient helper. Notifications remind users that a benched player on their team is projected to do better than one of the starters, so users are given more tips than ever. Fantasy updates that are given from the app, tips to trade for players and pick up free agents are very accessible also. However, annoying ads pop up on the page and the fantasy videos are extremely redundant and tedious. The last day to fix teams is Thursday before the first game of the week starts. After that, teams battle head-to-head. The way fantasy football scoring works is players are given points based on how they play during the certain weeks. For example, if Tom Brady is your starting quarterback and he passes for 466 yards and has three

touchdowns, he gets 28 points. Those points add in with all the other points of the starting players and accumulate for the final score. At the end of Monday night, the user with the highest points wins. After Monday, a player is set up against a new opponent and the cycle restarts on Tuesday. The simplicity of navigating through different leagues is also a notable feature on the ESPN app. The home screen offers quick links, such as news and analysis to help better the player's team. The best feature on the home screen is the "Your Teams" feature, which allows the current player to see the overall record and provides a shortcut to the different leagues. However, notifications throughout the week sometimes can be an annoyance. Whether playing for bragging rights or to win national recognition, the "ESPN Fantasy Football" app is easily accessible for the football die-hard fan, while adding the challenge of picking the right players during the season. Despite the excessive advertisements throughout the app, the user is able to see past that and enjoy the addictive worldwide game.

Adrian Broaddus may be reached at theprospectordaily. ent@gmail.com.



MICHAELA ROMAN/ THE PROSPECTOR

The ESPN Fantasy Football app is an accessible for both Google Android and iPhone users.

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Local hotspots get ready for football season

BY JOSE SOTO
The Prospector

Not many things are synonymous with the fall season quite like football. Sport enthusiasts will be herding over to stadiums all across the nation to partake in one of the biggest American traditions; college football. Whether watching it live or through broadcast, millions of people take these sporting events seriously. This not only means that Saturday nights at the Sun Bowl at the University of Texas at El Paso will be exuberant with thousands of game goers, but also that local businesses will be catering to these same people as well.

Here at UTEP, the Sun Bowl is conveniently located in one of the most thriving areas of El Paso. Whether grabbing a bite to eat before the game, or enjoying a celebratory adult beverage, or drinking your sorrows away, game attendees have an array of options when it comes to choosing where to visit before or after the game.

Union Plaza, downtown El Paso and the Cincinnati Bar District are some of the few local hotspots where football fans can gallivant through on game nights.

Geo Geske, commonly known as G2, is situated in the Cincinnati Bar District at 2701 N. Stanton St. Arturo Duarte, one of the managers of the location, said that the business caters to fans with some specials.

"We usually offer different specials during game nights," Duarte said. "We like to offer different menu prices during the football season to cater to those who go to

the games. We also extend our patio to accommodate the crowd."

Duarte said that although Geo Geskes thrives with the help of those attending the football games, it is actually the basketball season when the restaurant/bar cashes in from the UTEP community.

"We tend to get people after the games, but it isn't anything outstanding," Duarte said. "It does help the local scene though."

The recently opened TradeCraft, located at 3737 N. Mesa St., is one of the bars that are closest to the Sun Bowl. Robert Read, one of the managers of the bar, said TradeCraft would be offering different specials to those attending the games.

"We will be offering revolving daily specials for fans in Miner gear before and after the game," Read said. "Each day will be different, but I believe die-hard fans will be satisfied with our specials."

Read said that that UTEP football games equal traffic and that all bars and restaurants in the area should take note.

"UTEP games equal UTEP traffic, especially on Mesa," Read said. "Traffic is always good and hopefully frustrated drivers will stop by for a refreshment or two and wait for the traffic to subside."

Read said TradeCraft will schedule more employees during the football season to cater to the crowd.

"TradeCraft will have more employees during UTEP home games," Read said. "We project to see a lot more foot traffic during games due



ANGEL ULLOA/ THE PROSPECTOR

The Hoppy Monk, located at 4141 N. Mesa St. is a convenient location to grab a drink before or after the game.

to the unfortunate closing of some bars in the Cincinnati district."

Hoppy Monk, another business located in close proximity to the Sun Bowl, is located at 4141 N. Mesa St, and is also gearing up for the upcoming football crowd.

"We definitely get some of those attending the game before and afterwards," said Jesus Puga, one of the managers of Hoppy Monk.

"We usually get a lot of people pre-gaming here at our location," Puga said that although the game goes do hit the bar, it isn't anything drastic.

"The increase of business isn't anything drastic, but if we do see that the numbers are going up, we tend to add on more employees," Puga said.

Hoppy Monk offers a Monk's Pick, a daily beer offering that switches daily.

"A lot of people tend to tailgate more than hitting up a bar or restaurant," Puga said. "We do see a lot of people coming in before and after the games though. Fortunately, our experience has all been positive. We've never encountered any problems with those who are attending the game."

Jose Soto may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



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THE PROSPECTOR

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO SINCE 1915

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

SPORTS

EDITOR
JAVIER CORTEZ, 747-7477

Miners ready for home opener against Incarnate Word



MICHAELA ROMAN/ THE PROSPECTOR

The Miners are 57-34-4 all-time in home openers.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The Prospector

Two opening losses to teams from the power five conferences, Aaron Jones sidelined for the season, squeezing past rivals New Mexico State 50-47 in overtime – these are the storylines the Miners bring to the forefront entering the fourth week of college football.

UTEP football will look to break .500 Saturday, Sept. 26, at their first home game of the season against the Incarnate Word Cardinals at Sun Bowl Stadium.

Despite being the only Football Bowl Subdivision team who has not had a home game, this will be the

ninth time since 1983 that the Miners have had their season opener against a Football Championship Subdivision team. UTEP has a 7-1 record when facing an FCS team and a 57-34-4 all-time record in home openers. The last time UTEP faced an FCS school was in 2011, when they defeated Stony Brook 31-24 in overtime.

In the 50-47 victory over the NMSU Aggies, the Miners scored 50 points for the first time since 2009, and for the first time under head coach Sean Kugler. The squad is 9-0 since 1999 when scoring 50 points or more. However, the Miners stole the win without running back Aaron Jones and without starting quarterback Mack Leftwich, who left the

game in the third quarter with a severe concussion.

Throughout the game, the Miners overcame 14-point deficits three times, 23-9, 30-16 and 44-30, in the matchup to beat the Aggies. When Leftwich went out of the game, hometown Andress high school graduate Ryan Metz took his spot.

Metz, with four minutes in the game, trailing 44-30, conducted two touchdown drives to tie the game and force it into overtime. Coach Kugler called the comeback one of his proudest moments in his coaching tenure as the headman in El Paso.

“The team kept fighting and kept responding, even when they were down 14–kind of in tough situa-

tions,” Kugler said. “That was one of the most exciting games I’ve ever been a part of as a coach; maybe one of the proudest moments I’ve had about my team because of their resiliency in the game.”

On the visiting side, the 2-1 Division II team, based in San Antonio, is coming off a 20-10 win over Nicholls. Led by head coach Larry Kennan, an ex-NFL quarterback coach for the Los Angeles Raiders.

Incarnate Word brings forth a strong defensive player in outside linebacker Myke Tavarres. A transfer from the University of Arkansas, Tavarres leads the Southland Conference with 8.3 tackles per game and 6.0 tackles for loss. In addition to being a key component of the defense, Tavarres is also the starting kick returner for the Cardinals.

Although Jones will be sidelined for the remainder of the season, the Miners will continue on the ground with Darrin Laufasa and LaQuintus Dowell. Laufasa scored on a 66-yard run against the Aggies and ended the night with 76 yards.

Adding diversity to the receiving core, the Miners were able complete passes to receivers JaQuan White, Autrey Golden, Tyler Batson, Cole Freytag and to tight ends Hayden Plinke and Cedrick Lang. Lang caught a six-yard pass from Metz to win the game in overtime.

With the even distribution on offense, Kugler claims that his offense will be more balanced against the Cardinals on Saturday and throughout the rest of the season.

“We talked about being a running back, not by committee, but running back by team,” Kugler said. “I

think (against NMSU) we accomplished that.”

For special teams, the Miners continue to improve, according to coach Kugler. Due to his 64-yard punt return for a touchdown in the NMSU game, JaQuan White was honored as Conference USA’s Special Teams Player of the Week. Junior Jay Mattox is 9-9 in PATs and 4-4 in field goals. Mattox is currently on an 11-consecutive field goal streak, which dates back to Nov. 8, 2014, against Western Kentucky.

On the defensive end, Alvin Jones is coming off his career-high performance against the Aggies. In the overtime victory, Jones had a career-high five tackles for losses, a career-best 11 tackles and recorded a safety for the Miners. As of the third week, Jones leads the defense with 18 tackles, with eight solo tackles.

Going into the game Saturday, the Miners will start Metz at quarterback, and coach Kugler was more than pleased with his ability to perform at the position.

“I can’t say enough about Ryan Metz,” Kugler said. “I always knew when he got his opportunity he was going to shine. What a gutsy performance by him (against NMSU).”

Adrian Broadus may be reached at theprospectoraily.sports@gmail.com

Robertson-Harris going out on top in senior year



MICHAELA ROMAN/ THE PROSPECTOR

Roy Robertson-Harris led the Miners last season in tackles for loss with 9.5.

BY JUAN CARLOS NAVARRETE

The Prospector

He is often thought of as the face of the defense; a three-year starter and there’s no reason why he shouldn’t be. Now that the Miners are without Aaron Jones, Roy Robertson-Harris may become the new face of the team.

For Robertson-Harris, his football career is something he can thank his stepfather for. He didn’t start playing until he was 12 years old. It was

his last year in California and it was the first of many changes that would come to him thanks to football.

In high school at Grand Prairie, Texas, he was considered a three-star recruit by rivals.com. It was during his senior year that he realized he could play at the Division One level. He got offers from numerous programs, but chose UTEP for one reason only—more playing time.

“Just the small feel of it. I got calls from bigger schools I knew I wasn’t

going to play,” Robertson-Harris said. “So I came here, knew I was going to play early. So far I’ve been able to do everything I thought I was going to do.”

A decision to come to a less competitive program would pay off for Robertson-Harris. In his first season as a Miner, he played in 10 games, had a career best four-tackle game, and was able to record his first career sack; it doesn’t take much to see why fans appreciate him.

Another big fan is his coach. Sean Kugler has been through the ups and downs with Robertson-Harris and knows the reason why he has been regarded as a top player since day one.

“Roy has come a long way since we’ve been here as a coaching staff,” Kugler said. “Here’s a guy that academically was struggling off the field, was not a great producer really, was close to being kicked out. He’s turned his life around, he’s a team captain, he works his tail off every day. He’s earned the respect of the coaches and his teammates, and here’s a guy that took a second chance and ran with it, and I’m proud of him.”

In his sophomore year, when many players hit a slump, Robertson-Harris continued to improve. He played in all 12 games for the Miners and even ranked second on defense in tackles for loss.

He’s a player who has quickly earned the respect of his teammates. This year, being his senior year, his teammates have designated him as team captain; a prestigious accolade he does not take lightly.

“It means everything,” Robertson-Harris said. “Everybody is watching—you got the media, you got guys that are younger who are coming—so you have to preform day in and day out.”

Robertson-Harris has seen the results of a team working hard together. Last year the Miners had a 7-6 record to lead them to their first bowl game under Kugler. It was also the first

bowl game for many of these Miners, including Robertson-Harris.

A tough loss against Utah State at the New Mexico Gildan Bowl made this year’s goal was clear for Robertson-Harris. The Miners have not won in a bowl in over 40 years, and that is something he would like to change.

“Conference championship, win a bowl game, and we’ll see where it goes from there,” Robertson-Harris said.

With Jones out, Robertson-Harris has stepped up as the face of the program. This was more apparent in their last outing against Battle of I-10 rivals NMSU on Saturday, Sept. 19. Robertson-Harris had a part in leading the defense against what looked to be a runaway game for the Aggies. In a turn of events, the Miners got their first win of the season, and Robertson-Harris’s defense got the stops when it was needed.

The Miners are now 1-2 and a conference championship and bowl game are still in their sights and a possibility for the team. With a player like Robertson-Harris, there is no doubt that the UTEP will have as good a chance as any to win another five games to reach bowl eligibility.

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

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

OUR VIEW

PHOTO EDITOR
MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7477

Miners win thrilling Battle of I-10 in Las Cruces



MICHAELA ROMAN/ THE PROSPECTOR
1.Quaterback Ryan Metz celebrates with teammates in the end zone. 2. UTEP cheerleaders celebrate on the field after the Miners defeated the Aggies. 3. Cedrick Lang holds the ball in the air after scoring the game winning touchdown. 4. Receiver Cole Freytag running into the end zone after catching a touchdown pass.



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“No name”-Ryan Metz comes to the forefront in Miners first win



MICHAELA ROMAN/ THE PROSPECTOR
Quarterback Ryan Metz led the Miners to the game winning drive in overtime to defeat the Aggies 50-47 in Las Cruces.

BY JAVIER CORTEZ
The Prospector

Down by 14 points, eight minutes into the third quarter of the Battle of I-10 against the New Mexico State Aggies this past Saturday, things could have not been worse for the UTEP football team.

Their best player, Aaron Jones, was relegated to a pair of crutches. Their

starting quarterback, Mack Leftwich, was knocked out of the game due to a vicious hit, and their no-name backup quarterback just threw an interception for a touchdown.

Fast forward two hours later, and that no-name quarterback was surrounded by a scrum of El Paso media, being pelted with never-ending question about his incredible performance in the fourth quarter.

That no-name quarterback was Ryan Metz, an Andress High School alum, who is now the Miners’ new starting quarterback.

In two quarters, Metz completed 15-of-19 passes for 218 passing yards, with four total touchdowns (three passing, one rushing). Metz finished with a quarterback rating of 98.0, which is the highest QBR of any quarterback in the Sean Kugler era.

“I think a lot of people were not sure (when Ryan came onto the field),” said senior linebacker Jimmy Musgrave. “It was his first time coming into the game. But once he took control of the offense, it was amazing to see.”

More impressive than his final stats, was the way Metz transformed the UTEP offense. Known for their slow and methodical approach, the Miners looked quick and explosive, whereas the “old” offense looked bland and predictable.

Despite the change in offense, there were still some detractors.

“I think if Leftwich was there, he would’ve thrown it just as well,” said NMSU head coach Doug Martin.

NMSU defensive back Jacob Nwangwa added: “I don’t think he was hard to defend in the air.”

The Aggies bitter post-game statements most likely stem from the fact that the Miners are their main rivals, nevertheless the statements were off base. The NMSU secondary was under constant threat once Metz took over.

In the 11 pass attempts; Leftwich never threw a pass of 15-yards or more. Metz threw the ball down the field consistently and accurately. The

Miners scored 28 points on offense in the second half, all through Metz.

Three weeks ago, coach Kugler said that the Miners would use all four quarterbacks over the course of the season; Mack Leftwich, Kavika Johnson, Garrett Simpson and Metz.

Coming out of fall camp in Ruidoso, Leftwich was the prototypical game manager, Johnson was the all-around athlete, and Simpson and Metz were the pocket passers. All four quarterbacks bring something to the table, but Metz separated himself from the pack with his clutch play in the fourth quarter.

Twice the Miners found themselves down by two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, and twice Metz erased the deficit. But his last two drives in regulation were the most impressive.

A three-play, 75-yard drive cut the Aggie lead to seven with three minutes left. Followed by a pivotal stop by the UTEP defense, which was one of the few positives for the Miners on that side of the ball.

The Miners got the ball back down by a touchdown, with 2:01 left on the game clock, no timeouts and 98 long yards to the Aggie end zone. What came next was truly impressive. Metz drove the Miners down the field to tie the game in an eight-play, 98-yard drive, in one minute and 19 seconds.

“Unbelievable for a freshman,” Kugler said. “He called his own plays during both of those drives and took the offense right down the field, conserved time, called plays that he was comfortable with. The play at the end (regulation), that was a beauty because I probably would’ve never called that, but he did. It took a lot of (guts) on his part to do it.”

The last play Kugler was referring to was a quarterback draw by Metz, who scored on an eight-yard run. Metz capped the night off with six-yard touchdown pass to tight end Cedrick Lang in overtime to win the game.

UTEP players after the game used an assortment of adjectives to describe Metz on the 98-yard drive; calling it insane, crazy and amazing.

In the last two drives and in overtime, Metz was 11-for-15 for 154 yards, with three total touchdowns (two passing, one rushing).

Although Metz was responsible for the vast majority of the Miners’ success in the second half, the redshirt freshman was humble as ever after the game.

“I think we knew that it was all business,” Metz said referring to the last two drives of regulation. “These guys just responded, and I mean the receivers made me look good because trust me not every pass was perfect, but these guys bailed me out.”

Metz might not be good enough to completely turn the Miners’ season around because of the loss of Aaron Jones and the struggling defense, but he does solve the quarterback dilemma. Come Saturday and for the remainder of the season, the Miners have found their new starting quarterback.

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Change at quarterback will bode well for remainder of the season



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

Junior quarterback Mack Leftwich left last Saturday's game against NMSU in Las Cruces midway through the third quarter due to a serverre concussion.

BY JAVIER CORTEZ
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Change is hard. Sometimes we ignore our faults or shortcomings and only change as a result of our mistakes. Then there are other times when the solution is staring you right in the face.

That is the state of the UTEP football team right now—the solution is staring them right in the face. That solution is Ryan Metz and a more up-tempo offense.

In the Sean Kugler era, the Miners have adopted a hard-nosed, run-oriented offense. And to some degree it has worked.

The Miners had their first winning season since 2005 last season and they were second in the nation with time of possession. Running back Aaron Jones greatly benefited from this system even though two of his three seasons with the Miners have been prematurely cut short due to injuries.

But the Miners' 50-47 overtime win over New Mexico State this past Saturday shows that this team needs a change. With Ryan Metz in charge of the Miners' offense for nearly two full quarters, the possibilities for a better offense were endless.

Under a pass-oriented offense, the Miners have the chance to still be a decent team this season, with or without Aaron Jones. On Monday, coach Kugler named Metz the starter for their home opener against Incarnate Word.

Metz is the right choice, whether Kugler wants him leading the Miners' offense or not. Mack Leftwich, who suffered a vicious hit against the Aggies, is under concussion protocol and could be out for some time.

Metz will be the starting quarterback indefinitely, but the job should be his for the rest of the season.

If the combination of Leftwich managing the game and Kavika Johnson running the wild cat comes back in some form, the Miners will be a below average team.

The heavy run formations and short passing game is not good enough to make for what has been an atrocious UTEP defense through three games. The Miners are giving up 54.7 points per game on defense, which ranks dead last in the nation out of 128 Division One schools.

The defense's biggest problem is that they cannot stop any type of offense. They are bad against both passing and running-oriented teams. They struggle against spread offense, the option, play action, etc.

Part of it has to do with their depleted secondary, but the Miners consistently give up big play after big play to a nauseating degree. If the Miners' defense has one thing going for them, it's that they make timely stops.

sense only if the offense that is employed is sustainable. The Miners slow and predictable offense without Aaron Jones is not sustainable.

If the Miners can monopolize the clock, then they are in good shape. But the Miners have been blown out plenty of times even when they win the time of possession battle, which shows that this line of thinking is not the best.

The combination of Darrin Laufasa and LaQuintus Dowell in the backfield against the Aggies was solid, as both combined for 161 rushing yards on 19 attempts, with two touchdowns. But the probability of either of those players putting up numbers like that week in and week out is unlikely.

Former UTEP head coach, Mike Price, had atrocious defenses throughout his nine years in El Paso, but his teams were still competitive with a pass-heavy offense. In fact you could argue that Price's offensive scheme was the only reason why the Miners had success.

Which is why a case can be made to revamp the offense and center it around Metz. To be fair it might be a

little premature to anoint Metz as the savior of this offense. He picked apart a feeble NMSU secondary and has yet to play against a legitimate defense.

The risk of being premature with Metz is a far more viable option then going back to past.

Leftwich fits the current system, he manages the game, limits turnovers, and most importantly, hands the ball off. But with no legitimate playmaker in the backfield, things will get hairy.

With Leftwich under center, defenses can stack the box and eliminate any type of running game that the Miners try to impose. Having a predictable running attack on first and second downs leads to third and longs.

And passing the ball down the field is not Leftwich's forte. His 5-feet, 9-inch frame is not what you would call ideal for a passing quarterback. Although during summer camp in Ruidoso, Leftwich had balls batted down at the line of scrimmage.

The 6-feet, 4-inch Metz does not have that problem. And Metz can make throws Leftwich would never attempt.

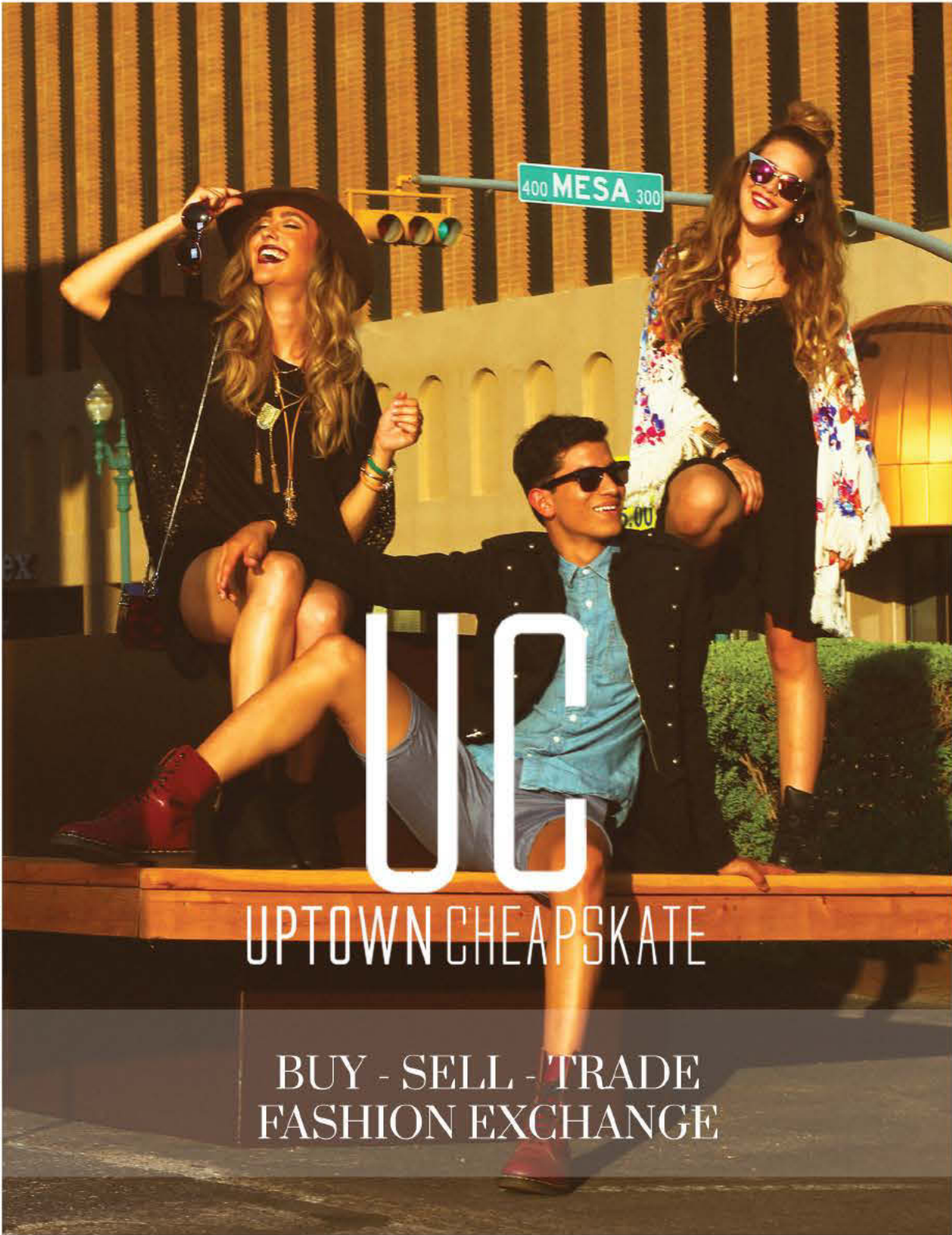
Also unknown to most is the athleticism of Metz. The redshirt freshman was also a track and field star at Andress High School; winning the district title in the 400-meter dash in 2011. Wildcat quarterback Kavika Johnson is the better runner, but Metz' ability to move the ball vertically combined with his mobility is superior to any other quarterback on the Miners' roster.

On one particular throw Metz found sophomore receiver Tyler Batson running a streak down the sideline for 30-yards and put the throw on a dime. Garrett Simpson might be able to make that throw, but Johnson and Leftwich do not have those types of throws in their arsenal.

Not to backtrack, but the Miners do not need to turn into a high-powered spread offense. They simply just need to integrate more vertical passing into their offense. The Miners still have a decent running game, but they still need to find a way to exploit the talents of Metz come this Saturday.

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